

U.S. Deficit In Trade Set Record In January

\$17 Billion Shortfall Reported as House Votes Steel-Import Curb

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit soared to a record \$17 billion in January, the government reported Thursday, as economic weakness around the world pushed American exports down for the fourth straight month while imports surged to record highs.

The Commerce Department reported that the trade deficit shot up 21 percent from December's \$14.1 billion level and surpassed the old monthly record of \$16.7 billion set in August.

The trade deficit with China rose 23 percent to \$4.9 billion, as U.S. imports there fell to their lowest level in two years.

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji will travel to Washington on April 8 even as American lawmakers grow more concerned



A Kosovar family near the town of Prizren on Thursday fleeing combat on a tractor-trailer.

Japan trade surplus falls. Page 11

about the widening trade imbalance and reports of intelligence leaks to China, including reports of Chinese theft of nuclear technology from the Los Alamos laboratory.

The trade figures were released one day after the House of Representatives dealt a harsh setback to the Clinton administration's free-trade policy by approving a bill that would strictly limit the amount of steel imported into the United States.

The bill, responding to a surge of cheap imports that has hit the U.S. steel industry over the last year, is one of the most protectionist pieces of legislation to pass either house of Congress in recent years.

By setting import ceilings, it would almost certainly violate the rules of the World Trade Organization, and for that reason most major American steel companies did not actively support the bill.

The 289-to-141 vote, one short of the two-thirds margin needed to override a presidential veto, displayed the division in President Bill Clinton's Democratic Party over his free-trade policies as well as the increasing draw of protectionism among Republican lawmakers.

The trade commissioner of the European Union, Sir Leon Brittan, said Thursday that the bill "is, of course, highly protectionist in character," and if it ever became law would be "a matter of real concern."

A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate. But opponents predicted that it was likely to die in the more free-trade-oriented upper chamber or at least fall well short of getting the 67 votes needed to override a likely presidential veto.

Commenting on Thursday's trade report, Commerce Secretary William Daley noted that the decline in U.S. exports was accelerating as the global troubles that began in Asia have now spread to Russia and Latin America.

"We must all focus on improving economic conditions abroad while ensuring that foreign markets are open to American firms," Mr. Daley said at a briefing.

The trade deficit grew to \$16.99 billion after narrowing in December to a revised \$14.055 billion. Before the report, analysts expected a January deficit

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The Dollar		
New York	Thursday 8:45 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.0972	1.0989
Pound	1.6287	1.6305
Yen	117.575	118.17
DM	1.7828	1.7789
FF	5.979	5.9683
Dollars per pound and per euro.		
The Dow		
Thursday close	9,967.82	+ 1.20%
+ 118.21		
S & P 500		
Thursday close	1,316.55	+ 1.44%
+ 18.73		
Nasdaq		
Thursday close	2,462.97	+ 1.40%
+ 34.00		

Newsstand Prices		
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon 11.3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco 16.00
Cameroun	1.600 CFA	Qatar 10.00 QR
Egypt	EE 5.50	Pakistan 12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia 10 SR
Gabon	1.100 CFA	Senegal 1.100 CFA
Italy	3,000 Lire	Spain 250 Pts
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA	Tunisia 1.250 Dn
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E. 10.00 Dn
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. \$1.20 (Eur.)

Chinese See 'Cold War' Spy Charge

Officials Call Washington Press Conference to Reject Allegations

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Chinese officials here called a rare news conference Thursday to reassert a forceful denial that China had spied on a U.S. nuclear weapons laboratory.

He Yafei, minister-counselor at the embassy here, said that the reports of Chinese theft of nuclear technology from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico were "completely unfounded and irresponsible."

The Chinese officials said they hoped to clear the air and "overcome difficulties and obstacles" before a visit by Prime Minister Zhu Rongji next month.

Mr. Zhu himself had dismissed the

reported espionage as a "tale from 'The Arabian Nights'."

The espionage charge has crystallized congressional opposition to China on a range of topics, and played a role in a one-sided vote Wednesday by the Senate in favor of building a national missile-defense system. On Thursday, China expressed "serious concern" about that vote.

According to news reports, China gained access to secret information at Los Alamos in the 1980s that allowed it to build miniaturized nuclear warheads.

The spying allegations have complicated the often prickly relationship at a time when both governments have been striving to normalize it; critics have, for example, cited the charges as grounds to

oppose Chinese membership in the World Trade Organization.

Mr. He said that the Chinese scientists who have taken part in exchange programs at U.S. nuclear laboratories have respected the "strict parameters" placed on their activities. He suggested that military researchers in China were as well-equipped as their U.S. counterparts — perhaps even "more clever" than the Americans — to make nuclear breakthroughs.

Mr. He, asked why he thought the spying charges had surfaced if there was nothing to them, said: "Some people in the United States are not happy to see any progress in the relationship between China and the United States. They still

See CHINA, Page 3

Goethe's Return From Grave Revealed

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — In a secret operation conducted in 1970, East German scientists exhumed the body of Goethe, the great poet's corpse off to a nearby museum, worked on its preservation for three weeks, and then returned the remains to the Prince's Crypt in the city of Weimar.

Reiner Schlichting, an official at the Weimar Classics Foundation, which oversees the city's cultural heritage, said Thursday that the operation amounted to "a routine check-up by scientists."

He added that Goethe's bones had been strengthened and his sarcophagus given a new lining, "but nothing else was changed."

Details of the extraordinary exhumation, carried out at night on Nov. 2, 1970, by the former Communist state, are contained in a file with an appendix of several photographs that had lain unnoticed in Weimar's National Goethe Museum for the past 29 years. Mr. Schlichting confirmed the authenticity of the file.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper printed photographs Thursday apparently taken in 1970 of Goethe's vacated stone coffin and a detailed account

of the scientists' findings drawn from their "Report Concerning the Inspection, Removal, Maceration and Return of Goethe's Mortal Remains in November, 1970."

The term "maceration" refers to the technique used by the scientists whereby remaining fragments of Goethe's flesh were stripped from the corpse by steeping in fluids before the poet's bones were cleaned and strengthened with a special preserving agent, Mr. Schlichting said.

Goethe, whose most famous work, "Faust," tells of one man's pact with

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AGENDA

Court Rejects Appeal to Bar Starr Inquiry

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court Thursday dismissed an effort by a private legal group to halt the Justice Department's inquiry into possible misconduct by the Whitewater prosecutor, Kenneth Starr.

The special three-judge panel that selects independent counsels rejected a

challenge from Landmark Legal Foundation, a conservative law group, that sought to block the Justice Department inquiry on grounds that the agency lacked the authority to discipline independent counsels. It was uncertain Thursday what impact if any the court's ruling would have on the Justice Department inquiry.

EU Summit Unlikely to Select President

A German government spokesman said Thursday it was unlikely that European leaders would decide on a new president for the European Commission at their summit meeting in Berlin next week.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany was touring European capitals looking for consensuses on a group to replace the EU executive body. Page 4

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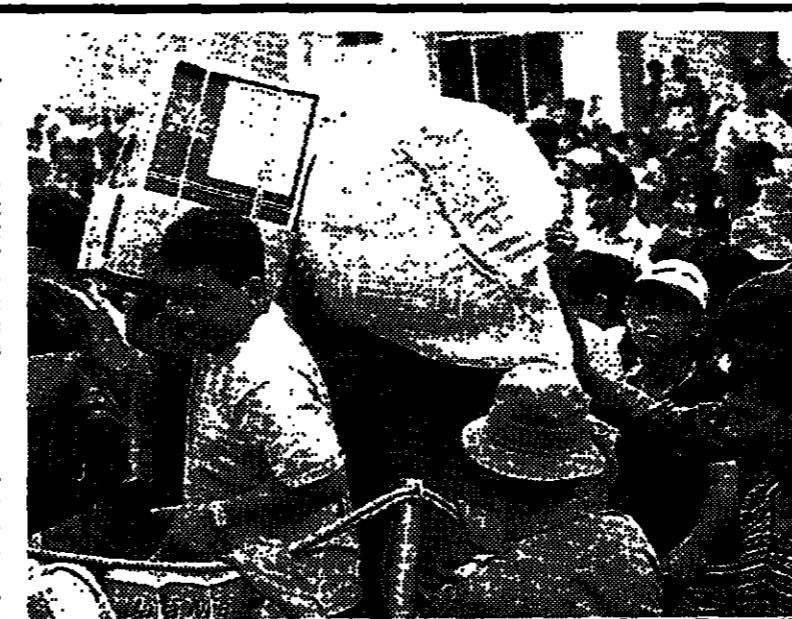
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DIGITAL WORKPLACE The IHT on-line www.iht.com



FLEEING EAST TIMOR — Residents of Dili boarding a ship Thursday amid fears of escalating conflict. An independence advocate warned of possible army disruption to a ballot on the island's future. Page 5.

In Russia, Mystery Over Nude Video and Prosecutor

By Celestine Bohm
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Six weeks ago, Russia's chief prosecutor, Yuri Skuratov, submitted his resignation and disappeared, causing a scandal.

As that scandal took on new and ominous dimensions, Mr. Skuratov returned to public view — twice — on Wednesday. The first time was in the Federation Council, the upper house of Parliament, where he announced that he planned to remain in his prosecutor's post, openly defying President Boris Yeltsin.

The second time was on a midnight news program by a state television channel where, for a few minutes, Mr. Skuratov, who is 46, appeared as the star of a black-and-white videotape, naked and in bed with two

young women, also naked, neither of them his wife. The first scene rocked an uneasy political truce here, setting the stage for another showdown between President Yeltsin and his opposition, which seems to be gathering strength daily.

The second — clearly aimed at discrediting the latest hero of the Yeltsin opposition — sets a new low for Russian politics, which long ago lost all ideological luster and is now sinking to the level of mudslinging.

[After meeting Thursday with both Mr. Skuratov and Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, Mr. Yeltsin directed the Russian Security Council to form a commission to investigate Mr. Skuratov's alleged "misdeeds, which bring disgrace to the honor of a prosecutor, and his violations of the prosecutor's oath." The Associated Press reported.

It was a rare step backward for Mr. Yeltsin, who has fired dozens of top ministers and officials over the years without issuing any justification.

[The commission is to assess whether the alleged misdeeds are true, and to investigate the methods used to discover them, said a statement released by Mr. Yeltsin's press office. It is also to look into whether Mr. Skuratov's privacy was violated and whether his office had exceeded its powers. The commission is to be headed by Nikolai Bordyuzha, who is both secretary of the security council and presidential chief of staff.]

"There are two conclusions you can draw from this affair," said Pavel Voshchanov, a radio commentator and former press secretary to Mr. Yeltsin. "The first is

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IOC Reforms Olympic City Selection Rules

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — In an effort to curb the corruption that has tarnished the selection process for Olympic host cities and sparked a winter of widespread discontent, the International Olympic Committee formally adopted a new system Thursday that curtails the direct contact its members will have with the six cities bidding for the 2006 Winter Games.

No longer will scores of IOC members be flown to candidate cities to be whisked around venues and restaurants — or local department stores — in high style. No longer will the full IOC membership vote on a full list of candidates.

Instead, a small electoral college will narrow the field and, in an implicit attempt to limit the potential for corruption, the bulk of that electoral college will be chosen the morning of the vote.

"It makes sense, because there is much less risk that some talks or negotiations or any other maneuvers can take place," said Marc Hodler, the IOC member from Switzerland who gave the Salt Lake City bribery scandal considerable momentum in December by claiming that some of his fellow members' votes were for sale.

On the final day of this emergency session, the IOC also released a detailed financial report for the first time since 1993 and approved the formation of two committees: an ethics commission, which is intended to function as a watchdog on IOC activities; and a study

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Former Prostitutes and the Men / Remedial Classes

San Francisco Program Fights the Street Sex Business

By Evelyn Nieves
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — The 60 men were slumped in their chairs, heads in their hands, weary with the weight of screaming insults from a former prostitute.

"I hated you!" she shouted at the men, who snapped to attention as if they had been pinched.

"I wanted to stick a knife in you!" she yelled, jolting an old man so hard that he knocked his glasses off his face.

It was not even lunch time and the men had already endured a prosecutor's hourlong lecture on the law against soliciting, close-up color slides showing the affects of venereal disease, and three other angry former prostitutes.

In the afternoon there would be more lectures — from police officers, business owners and residents of prostitution-plagued neighborhoods. And for this daylong humiliation in a drafty room in the San Francisco Hall of Justice, the men paid \$500 and considered themselves lucky: their first arrest for soliciting sex would be wiped from their records, never to haunt them.

Unless they get caught a second time.

This effort is San Francisco's answer to the world's oldest profession.

Modeled after those daylong traffic schools for errant drivers, the First Offender Prostitution Program — or "john school," as people call it — is confronting the sex trade by trying to drum some sense into those who perpetuate it.

The police say the program, the first of its kind, is working splendidly. Of the 2,181 men who have taken the class since it began four years ago, only 18 have been re-arrested and prosecuted after their names were checked against the program's list of participants. The program's success has created such a buzz all over the country that several cities, including Fresno, California; Las Vegas; Toronto, and Nashville, Tennessee, have created similar programs, and others are considering them.

No one contends that the program will stop prostitution, especially because massage parlors, escort services, strip clubs and other fronts for the sex trade persist. But with an aggressive outreach program that helps prostitutes find an alternative to street life, and relentless police undercover operations that arrest the men who buy sex, the first-offender program, the police say, has led to a sharp, visible drop in San Francisco's outdoor sex trade. For a city of nearly 800,000 people, the level of street prostitution is small, reduced to one or two spots.

"If you'd seen this before, it was like a sex bazaar," Lieutenant Tom Buckley said as he led



The New York Times News Service
Tracy Helton, left, and Angel Cassidy are former prostitutes who help San Francisco reduce street prostitution in a program for first-time offenders. Above, city police officers carrying out an arrest.

an operation one night in a neighborhood called Polk Gulch with four police decoy prostitutes (three women and a man) and four teams of three officers who carried out arrests. Cars with single men kept circling around one block where an officer stood shivering in a halter top and Spanx tights. In four hours on a slow night, the team arrested 43 men, and virtually every one of them opted for the john school over prosecution.

Results like these have given the first-offender program its considerable attention. Last fall, the program won a \$100,000 Innovations in American Government award from the Ford Foundation, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Council for Excellence in Government. As a result, many law-enforcement officials from across the country want to observe the program.

Last month, 45 officials from seven cities — Portland, Oregon; Seattle; Pittsburgh; Washington; Jacksonville, Florida; Springfield, Missouri; and St. Paul, Minnesota — visited San Francisco.

To Norma Hotaling, a former prostitute who co-founded the program in 1995 with a police lieutenant and an assistant prosecutor, the most exciting part of the effort against street sex is the SAGE Project, a nonprofit service organization. Since it began as a small outreach group in 1992, Ms. Hotaling said, the organization, which receives some of its money from the first-offender program, has helped 500 young women

get off the streets. Fifteen of those now work full time at the project.

"There is no other city doing what we're doing," she said. "Everyone just arrests the women and throws them in jail. But we're getting them off the streets, getting them vocational training, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on the medical care the city spends on these women."

ORGANIZATIONS advocating the legalization of prostitution, including Coyote and the Sex Workers Alliance of Vancouver, have criticized Ms. Hotaling and the john school for emphasizing the victimization of street prostitutes at the hands of pimps and customers. But a recent study of 130 local prostitutes, Ms. Hotaling said, found that 68 percent had been raped — almost half at least five times — and that 82 percent had been otherwise assaulted.

And the stories told by former prostitutes at the john school, reminiscent of the prison horror stories that inmates tell youths in "scared straight" programs, have a palpable impact on the men in the class.

At a recent class, the men — of all ages and races — were clearly mortified by the women's stories, squirming in their seats and often looking down at the floor as they were lectured.

Angel Cassidy, a dark-haired woman in her 30s who said she started working the streets when she was 14, told the men that she lied when

clients asked whether she was a heroin addict.

"I'd have needle tracks all up and down my arms and say no," Ms. Cassidy said.

She had engaged in unprotected sex, she said, even though she had several venereal diseases. She added that she had fantasized about maiming the men. Several men shuddered.

Ms. Hotaling's story was a surprise. At 47, her street days nine years behind her, she looks like a suburban mom, dressed in coordinating jacket and slacks, her blond hair efficiently short.

After showing the grisly slides of what venereal disease does to sexual organs, she quietly said she knew all about prostitution.

"I was a prostitute for 20 years, and a heroin addict," she said. "I planned on sticking a knife in a john, any john, and thank God for you and me that I got out before that happened."

The men also heard stories about the customers who did not get away — men who were robbed and stabbed by prostitutes. At the end of the day they walked out of class looking spent.

As they left, one man agreed to give his assessment of the class, anonymously.

"I thought it was harmless," the man, a 40-year-old computer technician, said of his soliciting an undercover police officer for oral sex.

"I know I'm harmless. But I think when they talked about the diseases they had, that really made me sick. That and the slides. I don't want to risk getting caught again, either."

The next time he felt a certain urge, he said, his face reddening, he would rent a movie.

Blast Hurts 4 Near Istanbul While Ocalan Talks of Peace

Reuters

ISTANBUL — An explosion rocked a suburb of Istanbul on Thursday, wounding four people, according to initial reports.

The Anatolian news agency said the blast took place at a building in the Samandina district of the city, hit in recent weeks by a wave of violence. Police attribute the attacks to Kurdish separatist rebels fighting back for the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish Workers Party chief. The cause of the blast was not immediately clear.

Mr. Ocalan faces a possible death penalty on treason charges.

The Kurdistan party, fighting a 14-year armed campaign for Kurdish self-rule, has denied responsibility in the recent attacks.

Earlier Thursday, the Turkish military, apparently in response to Mr. Ocalan's declaration that he will portray himself as a peacemaker at his trial, said it would never negotiate with him.

"While combating terrorism the General Staff has never negotiated with the bloody terrorist organization and it is not possible to do so in the future," Amato quoted the military as saying in a statement.

Mr. Ocalan had issued a statement through his lawyers saying his rebel Kurdistan Workers Party was committed to "a democratic, peaceful political compromise."

His statement was at odds with recent party calls for an increased armed struggle targeting Turkey and tourist sites in the country.

■ Military Supports Election

Turkey's top general on Thursday declared the military's opposition to an attempt in parliament to cancel next month's elections and lift restrictions on Islamic politicians, saying it would create chaos. The Associated Press reported from Ankara.

The chief of the general staff, Huseyin Kirikoglu, made his remarks in an interview published by the newspaper Hurriyet before discussions in parliament over a no-confidence vote on Premier Bulent Ecevit's two-month-old, minority government.

U.S. Diplomat for Kosovo Had Been Accused of Lying

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

ARUSHA, Tanzania — A United Nations tribunal prosecuting crimes related to the 1994 Rwandan genocide decided Thursday to free a former Rwandan army officer suspected of involvement in the killings of 10 Belgian peacekeepers.

Prosecutors had asked that the charge of crimes against humanity, unrelated to the deaths of the Belgians, be dropped against Bernard Ntuyahaga and that he be handed over to Belgium for prosecution.

The three-judge panel at the UN Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda ruled that it did not have the authority to turn a suspect over for prosecution in another country. The judges did agree to drop the charge against Mr. Ntuyahaga.

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THE AMERICAS

Senators Wary About Letting Reno Investigate Misconduct

By Dan Morgan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — With the independent counsel law due to expire June 30, key members of the Senate's Government Affairs Committee have expressed uneasiness about turning over to Attorney General Janet Reno most of the power for investigating cases of misconduct by high officials.

Unless Congress acts, the Justice Department will automatically assume responsibility for investigating cases of high-profile corruption, except when Ms. Reno appoints a special counsel of her choosing to look into such cases.

But as that prospect looms, there are signs that a coalition of Republicans who distrust Ms. Reno and Democrats with memories of Watergate may be forming around proposals to salvage the law, or at least preserve some of its principles at

the Justice Department.

"When the attorney general says, 'Give me even more discretion and I'll do the right thing ...' said the committee chairman, 'based on some of our experiences, that causes me some concern.'

The chairman, Fred Thompson, Republican of Tennessee, has said in the past that he leans toward letting the 21-year-old independent counsel law die.

Senator Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania, who supports the reauthorization of a revised independent counsel law, declared, "As the hearings have progressed, some have begun to rethink their opposition."

As the committee held its third in a series of hearings on the law, varying degrees of support for the independent counsel law, or concern about the impact of simply allowing it to die, were heard from a bipartisan group.

It included Susan Collins, Republican of Maine; Joseph Lieberman, Democrat of Connecticut; Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan, and Daniel Akaka, Democrat of Hawaii.

"The basic function of the law is still a valid one," said Mr. Lieberman, the panel's ranking Democrat.

That position was, however, strongly challenged by Ms. Reno, who was the committee's principal witness Wednesday.

She testified that the law, under which the special counsel Kenneth Starr investigated President Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern, was "structurally flawed."

"And those flaws," she said, "cannot be corrected within our constitutional framework."

At the same time, Attorney General Reno indicated reservations about several

proposals put forward for increasing public confidence in the independence of Justice Department investigations involving high officials, if the independent counsel law expires.

She described as "unworkable" a proposal that would give the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section new status and independence while it probed misconduct by senior administration officials.

When she was asked about the proposal to appoint the head of the Public Integrity Section for a fixed term of five or seven years, subject to Senate confirmation, Ms. Reno said it would "create far more problems than it would solve."

She also expressed doubts about a plan by Common Cause, the public interest advocacy group, giving new powers to the assistant attorney general in charge of the Criminal Division.

Drafters of the proposal included Archibald Cox, who was the first Watergate special prosecutor, and a Harvard Law School professor, Philip Heymann.

Both have reversed their early support for the independent counsel law.

Their proposal would give the head of the criminal division almost complete independence from the attorney general during investigations of high-level misconduct.

Ms. Reno said their idea was "interesting."

But she cautioned that limiting the power of the president or the attorney general to remove the head of the criminal division might interfere with the chief executive's constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws.

"It is a difficult issue, and I don't think that moving the boxes around is going to solve the problem," she said.

CHINA:
Spy Charges Rejected

Continued from Page 1

have that Cold War mentality." Undercurrents of anti-Chinese sentiment swell up "whenever there is improvement in the Sino-U.S. relations, whenever there is an important summit that is going to happen," he asserted.

Mr. He said there was no reason, however, that the world's most powerful developed country and its most populous developing country could not cooperate.

The U.S. energy secretary, Bill Richardson, who is responsible for the nuclear weapons laboratories, has ordered tighter controls on electronic mail and electronic transfers from the labs, but has rejected the idea of ending scientific exchanges.

He has instituted a policy of background checks on visiting scientists from sensitive countries, ordered stricter controls on secret documents, and called for a re-examination of the department's counterintelligence files. He told a Senate committee that he had no evidence that secrets had leaked out via e-mail, but that electronic transfers were "a potential problem."

Earlier this month, Mr. Richardson fired Wen Ho Lee, a contract employee at Los Alamos of Taiwanese descent, on suspicion of leaking sensitive information to China. He has not been arrested.

On Wednesday, the Senate, many of its members clearly angered by the reports of espionage, voted, 97 to 3, to endorse construction of a national missile defense as soon as "technologically possible." The bill did not specify a time frame or provide a budget for the system.

A version of the missile bill was being debated Thursday in the House of Representatives. Early indications were that it would pass, but by a less one-sided margin than in the Senate.

China fears that a U.S. missile umbrella, if extended to parts of Asia as U.S. strategists are considering doing, would encourage independence sentiment in Taiwan, which it claims as a province.

Prime Minister Zhu expressed China's blunt opposition to such a defense program this week. He said a theater missile defense would violate international agreements, encroach on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China, and interfere with its internal affairs.

Clinton Aide Warns of Reaction

Norman Kempster of the Los Angeles Times reported earlier:

A senior White House official has warned that attempts to punish China for nuclear espionage could backfire, causing Beijing to modernize its antiquated atomic arsenal, a step that would increase the danger faced by the United States and its Asian allies.

"If we treat them like a threat, they may become one," said Gary Samore, President Bill Clinton's point man for the controversy touched off by reports that a scientist at Los Alamos had leaked secrets to China.

Mr. Samore's comments Wednesday to a seminar organized by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace were crafted to launch an administration counterattack on Republican critics. Those critics have accused Mr. Clinton of covering up Chinese espionage to avoid damaging U.S.-Chinese commercial relations.

Despite what Mr. Samore conceded was a "compromise of sensitive technology" 15 years ago, China has not updated its nuclear force, which includes about 20 missiles capable of reaching the United States and 300 or so more within range of Japan, India and Russia.

So far, China has not deployed the miniaturized warhead technology that it is suspected of stealing from Los Alamos, apparently because the leadership in Beijing has determined that a more powerful nuclear force is not worth the high cost it would involve, Mr. Samore said.

But, he added, if Chinese leaders perceived that Washington was becoming hostile to them, they could order a nuclear buildup.

General Is Fined \$22,000 in Sex Case

By Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Service

FORT LEWIS, Washington — An army judge has reprimanded retired Major General David Hale and ordered him to pay \$22,000 in penalties for having had sexual affairs with the wives of officers subordinate to him and then lying about it to Pentagon investigators.

General Hale, wearing a formal green uniform replete with medals, showed no emotion Wednesday as the judge, Colonel Stephen Saynisch, announced his punishment at the conclusion of a case that became a test of military justice and of the army's willingness to deal with transgressions by senior officers with the same severity it shows to lower-ranking soldiers.

General Hale, who pleaded guilty to eight charges, was the first officer of his rank to be court-martialed since 1952 and the first army general ever prosecuted in retirement.

General Hale was sentenced to pay a \$10,000 fine and forfeit \$1,000 a month of his retirement pay for one year. Under the charges, he could have lost his rank and all or most of his \$75,000

annual pension, and he faced 11 years in prison.

Army prosecutors, who declined to comment on General Hale's punishment, had requested jail time for the two-star general and decorated Vietnam veteran.

Colonel Saynisch did not offer any commentary in his ruling, which followed hours of emotional testimony that depicted General Hale as both a military hero and a disgrace.

In a tearful courtroom speech, General Hale expressed remorse for his actions and asked for forgiveness. He also apologized to the army and to the officers under his command, whom he acknowledged had deceived and betrayed.

"I have no excuses," he said. "Words cannot express my shame."

The sentencing ends one of the most sordid sexual-misconduct cases the army had ever made public, and it has implications for the entire U.S. military.

It was the latest in a series of sex scandals to roil the armed services in recent years, and the case raised questions about whether senior officers who had been accused of violating military

law got softer treatment than enlisted personnel.

Army officials acknowledged the seriousness of that issue in their ranks when they urged Colonel Saynisch to give General Hale a harsh sentence because it would "send a message" that the military did not have double standards.

In closing statements to the judge, Major Michael Mulligan, the army's lead prosecutor in the case, denounced General Hale as a "moral coward" whose behavior had violated a sacred trust among officers.

"The trust that's broken cannot be put back together," Major Mulligan said. "We have a higher standard," he said, "than most citizens or politicians: 'Our word is our bond.'"

The army initially filed 17 charges against the general but settled on eight after he agreed Monday to plead guilty.

He was court-martialed on seven counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and one count of making false official statements.

Until this week, General Hale had denied all the charges for nearly a year.

Panel Splits Verdict on Medical Marijuana

By David Brown
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The active substances in marijuana may be moderately useful for treating such problems as pain, nausea and appetite loss, but smoking marijuana has little future as a medicine, according to a panel of experts advising the federal government.

The long-awaited review, coming after several states legalized marijuana for medical use, was immediately seized upon by advocates of marijuana as an endorsement of their position.

"We are very pleased with this report, which clearly shows there is

scientific evidence that marijuana has bona fide therapeutic effects for some patients," said Chuck Thomas, director of the Marijuana Policy Project. "Patients already using marijuana should be given the benefit of the doubt, and should not be arrested."

The report, prepared by 11 scientists convened by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, specifically warned against smoked marijuana because of the risk of lung damage.

Therapeutic marijuana smoking should be permitted only in a few short clinical trials designed to assess claims for marijuana's usefulness as a pharmaceutical, it said.

Barry McCaffrey, the White House official responsible for drug policy, who requested the report, said he endorsed it "thoroughly" and called it a "significant contribution to discussing the issue from a scientific and medical viewpoint." He said he would not oppose limited studies of smoked marijuana until a less-harmful way of inhaling the substance's active ingredients was found.

"I would note, however, that the report says smoked marijuana has little future as an approved medication," Mr. McCaffrey said.

The panel reviewed published medical studies on marijuana's physiological effects and possible clinical benefits, and took testimony from researchers and patients.

The claims for marijuana are very broad. People have used it as treatment for nausea caused by chemotherapy, appetite loss arising from AIDS, the painful spasms of multiple sclerosis, the pain of migraine headache, the sight-threatening condition glaucoma, and the memory loss of Alzheimer's disease.

Reliable data on the drug's benefits, however, have been hard to get. The Drug Enforcement Administration places marijuana — along with heroin and several other addictive drugs — in the category of substances with "a high abuse potential."

This has made research on patients unusually difficult.

A Heartburn Link to Cancer

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Chronic heartburn can greatly increase a person's risk of developing one of the deadliest of cancers, adenocarcinoma of the esophagus, a major new study has shown.

Overall, in the study, having chronic heartburn increased the risk of cancer by nearly eightfold. Among patients with long-standing, severe heartburn, the risk of developing esophageal cancer was 43.5 times as great as for people who did not have this problem.

Heartburn results when the acidic contents of the stomach back up into the esophagus. Known medically as gastroesophageal reflux disease, heartburn has been the subject of much commercial attention in recent years following the development of new prescription and over-the-

counter drugs to alleviate the problem. The findings of the study, conducted among more than 1,400 people in Sweden, were published in Thursday's issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study is the most comprehensive examination to date of the relationship between reflux disease and cancer.

The strength of the findings prompted the authors to conclude that chronic reflux is a likely cause of esophageal adenocarcinoma, which develops in the tubular organ that transports food and drink from the mouth to the stomach.

American experts said that through periodic examinations of the esophagus in people with chronic heartburn, it is possible to detect precancerous changes in the esophageal lining and provide treatments that prevent the development of cancer.

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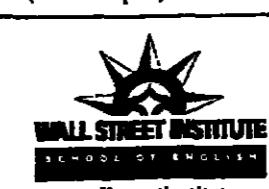
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EUROPE

Ignore Us at Your Peril, Triumphant EU Deputies Signal to Member StatesBy Barry James
*International Herald Tribune***BRUSSELS** — In their pharaonic palace on a Brussels hilltop, members of the European Parliament are relishing a political victory and are determined that the 626-member assembly should play a full role in the appointment of the European Commission.

After years of being the butt of jokes describing it as either a talking shop or a gravy train, the Parliament is waking up to its responsibilities as Europe's democratic voice. The inquiry into corruption initiated by the Parliament, which led to the resignation of the entire 20-member commission, the executive body of the European Union, has enabled it to occupy the moral high ground.

Member governments, which nominated the commission, were "glaringly silent" on its mismanagement, said Laurens Brinkhorst, a former director general at the commission and now a Liberal member of the Parliament. "The national parliaments don't care a hoot. Their ignorance is outstanding."

EU Succession To Dominate Berlin SummitBy Barry James
*International Herald Tribune***BRUSSELS** — A German government spokesman said Thursday that it was unlikely that European leaders would be able to decide on a new president for the European Commission at their summit meeting in Berlin next week.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, the current president of the EU, was touring European capitals looking for consensus on a new body to replace the EU executive body, which resigned earlier this week after a report blamed it for mismanagement and lack of control over instances of fraud, corruption and nepotism.

But he ran into opposition in Portugal and Spain, both of which see the commission as an ally against the bigger and wealthier EU states, and were seeking an interim solution to the power vacuum at the heart of Europe.

The Spanish minister for Europe, Ramon de Miguel, said a permanent commission should not be appointed until after elections to the European Parliament in June.

In Brussels, parliamentary political leaders said the president of the outgoing commission, Jacques Santer, would be rejected at a plenary session next week, unless he leaves before then. Parliamentarians said that if he attempted to stay on, even in an interim capacity, the assembly would vote to remove the entire commission. Mr. Santer, who was scheduled to meet with Mr. Schroeder on Friday, said he wanted to leave his post "as soon as possible."

He and his 19 fellow commissioners have remained at their posts in a caretaker capacity because they are required to do so by the EU's founding treaty. They said they would take care of current business, but would not initiate new legislation.

European leaders, who are responsible for the nomination of a new commission, were faced with two choices. Either they could nominate an interim commission, probably including most members of the present body, or they could choose a new executive group that would take over the nine-month period remaining of the term of the present commission and then continue for a full five-year appointment.

But the Parliament is opposed to any solution that would preempt the June elections and deprive the incoming legislature the right to accept or reject the governments' nomination for president.

If no agreement is reached in Berlin, the German government has raised the possibility of another summit within a brief period specifically to deal with the commission problem. Germany's minister for Europe, Guenter Verheugen, said that leaders at the Berlin summit would probably decide whether to seek an interim or a permanent solution — but would not agree on names.

[Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday gave his tacit support to former Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy. Bloomberg News reported from London. Mr. Blair regards the Italian as a man of "very considerable ability," his spokesman said.]

Both Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Blair have said they want the commission to be replaced as soon as possible. Mr. Blair has protested that commissioners who leave in disgrace should not be eligible for golden handshakes when they leave. But a commission spokeswoman, Martine Reichert, said on Thursday that none of the commissioners had personally been blamed of fraud and would receive generous payoffs.

Once they leave office, they will collect up to 60 percent of their salaries for the next three years. Manuel Marin, the Spanish commissioner who is the longest-serving member of the outgoing executive, will collect 124,836 euros (\$138,568) a year, not counting eventual pension payments.

Edith Cresson, the French commissioner whose nepotism and lack of control over an allegedly corruption-ridden education program led to the commission's downfall, will receive a pension of around 20 percent of her annual salary of 187,000 euros plus a further 50 percent for three years.

The result is a "major cultural shift" toward the European Parliament. "The time of accountability has started," Mr. Brinkhorst said.

The Parliament has made its breakthrough as a financial watchdog. Now it is demanding a greater political role, including a full right of consultation in the nomination of a commission president to replace Jacques Santer.

NEWS ANALYSIS The Amsterdam treaty, which comes into force this year after ratification by national parliaments, gives the Parliament the right to participate in the choice of a new commission president. Jose Maria Gil Robles, the leader of the Parliament, says he will oppose any attempt by member governments to appoint a new president, either interim or permanent, without reference to the new rules.

That means the Parliament will demand a confirmation hearing as soon as a candidate is named, and another hearing immediately after Europe-wide direct parliamentary elections in June so as not to tie the hands of the new legislature.

The Amsterdam treaty recognizes the role of the Parliament as a co-legislator with the European Council, a 2,200-member secretariat representing the 15 member governments, and extends the assembly's powers of consultation, assent and joint decision. The commission has the task of initiating European legislation and ensuring that treaties are executed at every step of the way.

The Amsterdam treaty also gives the president-designate of the commission the right to choose his or her own team rather than having to accept government nominees as in the past.

Pat Cox, the leader of the parliamentary Liberal group, said: "The council cannot any longer pretend that Parliament is the junior partner."

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, the president in office of the EU, is seeking consensus from other leaders on a candidate for commission president. He was scheduled to meet Mr. Gil Robles on Friday to discuss the results of his fact-finding tour of European capitals. And Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany was expected to

address a plenary session of the Parliament on Monday. Clearly, therefore, Germany was taking seriously the Parliament's insistence on being fully consulted at every step of the way.

Already the 1991 Maastricht Treaty on European Union gave the Parliament a role in the selection of a commission president. According to the treaty, "the governments of the member states shall nominate by common accord, after consulting with the European Parliament, the person they intend to appoint as president of the commission."

This procedure was first used in the nomination of Jacques Santer in 1994. Members of the Parliament take "consultation" to mean that if the governments' nominee is rejected by a simple majority, the candidate would be withdrawn.

This means that whoever is chosen as candidate must win the support of at least two of the three major groups in the Parliament — the Socialists, the Christian Democrats and the Liberals.

In 1994, the Parliament approved the appointment of Mr. Santer by a majority of only 18 votes after the Socialists

turned against him. They objected to the way a deal was stitched up over a compromise candidate after Britain rejected the Franco-German candidate, Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium, as too much of a federalist. That vote has lessons for today. "It means that never again should we elect a wimp," Mr. Cox said. It also signifies that Mr. Schroeder and the other government leaders will ignore the Parliament at the risk of a political explosion.

Another reason why the Parliament insists on confirmation hearings both now and again after the election is that the Maastricht treaty establishes the terms in office of the commission and the Parliament as a concurrent five-year period.

This enables the confirmation hearings for the commission president to be held during the first parliamentary plenary session following the election. It also reinforces the claim of the Parliament to be the democratic watchdog over the commission, a role it fulfilled in a dramatic fashion by opening up a broad inquiry into fraud, nepotism and cor-

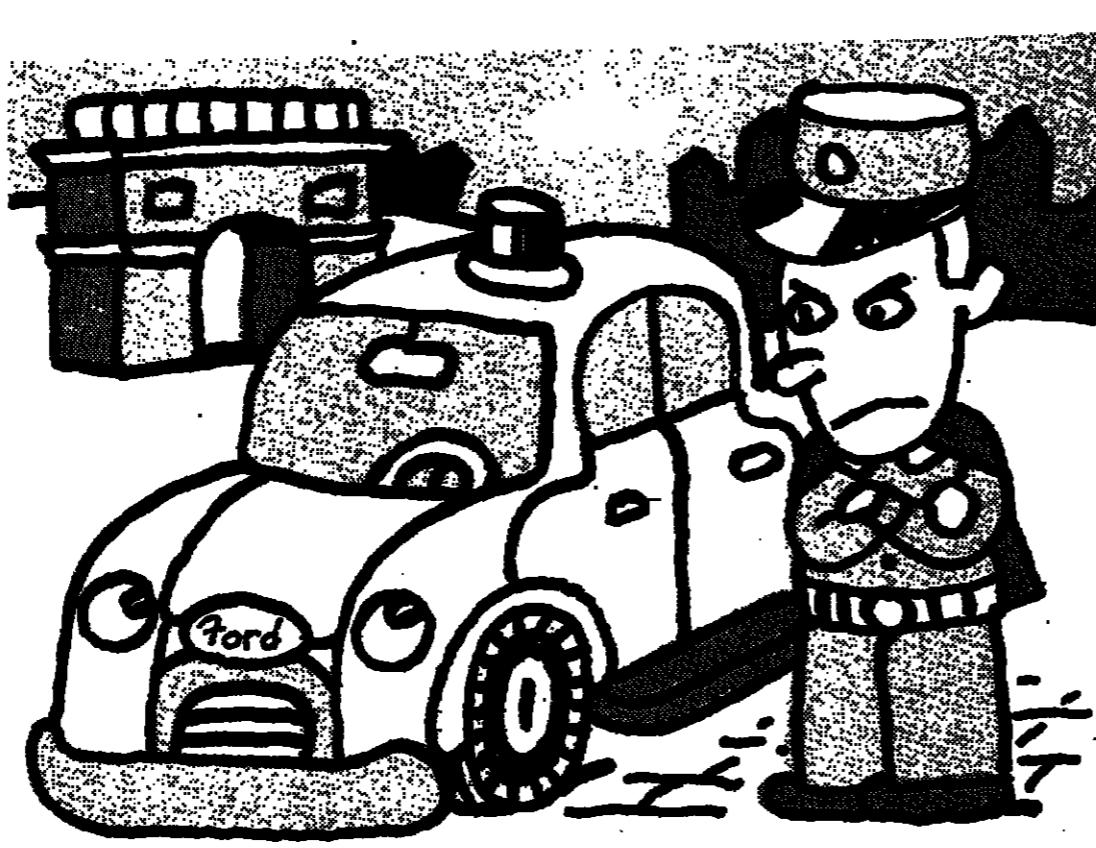
ruption at the executive that led to the executive's downfall.

Working in a 1 billion euro complex built largely of glass, members of Parliament are acutely aware of the danger of throwing stones. Long byword for expense account fiddling, the Parliament is "a large soft target with an exposed underbelly," Mr. Cox said.

An new anti-fraud unit approved by the commission this week will have the right to investigate all EU institutions, including the Parliament.

Mr. Gil Robles argues that a members' statute adopted by the assembly in December, which defines uniform salaries and expense rules, should remove many of the grounds for criticism.

Members are currently paid at the same level as deputies in their home countries, which means that salaries range from 2,828 euros for Spanish members to 9,635 for Italians. The statute is now in the hands of member governments, some of which are having difficulty in explaining to national parliaments why the members of the European assembly should earn more.

**Fast Ford on the Champs-Elysees****French Police Break a Taboo and Buy From U.S. Carmaker**By Frederic Tomesco
Bloomberg

monopoly in Europe's largest travel market.

"Europe is becoming a reality, even for cops," said Jean-Michel Prillieux, an analyst with Mavel SA, a Paris-based consultant to the car industry. "Ten years ago, an order of this kind would have been unthinkable."

"Who knows? Before too long, French ministers may drive around in Nissans," he added.

That idea seemed less preposterous this week after Renault said it wanted to buy a 35-percent stake in the Japanese carmaker for a reported 700 billion yen (\$5.9 billion).

The Ford contract, worth an estimated 1 billion francs (\$167 million), is part of a 24,000 vehicle, 1.7 billion-franc order by UGAP, the government agency that buys everything from hospital beds to computers. The remaining 11,000 cars will be purchased from France's two carmakers, PSA Peugeot Citroen and Renault SA.

"Price was the main criteria behind our decision," said Daniel Guilmartin, the purchasing director at UGAP, which has a monopoly over the car purchases of all French ministries and municipalities. "For the remaining 40 percent, we look whether the car meets the demands of the municipality."

BRIEFLY**Holocaust Accord Falters in France**

PARIS — A proposed banking deal to compensate French survivors of the Holocaust has fallen at the last hurdle because of differences among France's Jewish leaders, sources within the Jewish community said Thursday.

They said the accord was to have been signed Wednesday between the French Banking Association and Henri Hajdenberg, president of the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions, an umbrella organization representing France's Jewish groups.

Serge Klarsfeld, a Nazi hunter, confirmed that an agreement between the parties had been aborted at the last minute. (Reuters)

Belgium Unveils Stowaway Sensor

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium — Faced with a rising tide of illegal immigrants trying to enter Britain, officials in the Belgian port of Zeebrugge unveiled on Thursday a special electronic sensor to detect humans hidden in vehicles.

The electronic sensor detects the electric field generated by the beat of the nearest human heart. (Reuters)

Legionnaires' Toll Hits 13 in Holland

AMSTERDAM — An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at a Dutch flower show has killed 13 people and infected at least 50, the Health Ministry said Thursday.

As many as 200 visitors to the Westfries Flora show last month in Bovenkarspel, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) north of Amsterdam, have reported symptoms associated with the pneumonia-like disease.

Health officials intensified efforts Thursday to find the bacteria's source and opened additional call centers to answer questions from concerned citizens. (AP)

King of Norway Must Wait in Line

OSLO — King Harald must wait for hospital treatment like ordinary Norwegians, a local council ruled after accusing a member of the royal family of jumping a health queue.

A member of the royal family skirted the tax-financed public health system that requires Norwegians to put themselves on a waiting list at their local hospital for non-emergency treatment, the daily *Aftenposten* said Thursday. (Reuters)**French Communists Opt For a New Look***Reuters*

PARIS — The French Communist Party daily dropped the hammer and sickle from its masthead on Thursday as part of a facelift aimed at lifting flagging sales.

For the first time, the front page of the 95-year-old paper *L'Humanite* carried neither the party emblem nor the mention "Newspaper of the French Communist Party."

Robert Hue, the party leader, said the newspaper would operate independently of the party to be more professional.

Reflecting the political opening of the once-hardline French party, which is part of France's Socialist-led ruling coalition, few of the young journalists hired to work on the newlook newspaper are party members.

Given the steady death rate in previous years, the probability of observing nine deaths in three months is low, Dr. Couzens said. The deaths "are bad news rather than good news but how bad news

U.K. 'Mad Cow' Deaths Surged in '98By Sandra Blakeslee
New York Times Service

they are difficult to tell," he told the British Broadcasting Corp.

"We are going to have to wait another six or nine months to see" if the increase continues.

Since 1995 when the human form of mad cow disease was first recognized in humans, 39 Britons have died from the disease. Three cases were confirmed in 1995, 10 in both 1996 and 1997 and 15 in 1998.

There has been one confirmed case this year. But the rise in deaths should be interpreted with caution, Dr. Couzens added. It is possible that doctors have gotten better at diagnosing the disease which in humans is called new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or variant CJD. Or the increase could be a statistical fluke.

But plenty of people in Britain are worried that an epidemic of mad cow disease in humans has begun. Two years ago, scientists from Britain's National Creutzfeld-Jakob Surveillance Unit projected a low of 75 deaths and a high of 80,000 depending on the length of the

incubation period and how the infection is passed from animals to humans. Neither has been determined.

The epidemic began in 1986 when a bizarre brain disease called spongiform encephalopathy began killing cattle in the United Kingdom. Infected animals developed holes in their brains; showed changes in personality, and began staggering in circles — hence the term mad cow disease. By the beginning of this year, 173,718 cows had been positively diagnosed with the disease while more than 4 million animals have been destroyed in an effort to stamp out the infection. Cows appear to have gotten ill from eating the rendered remains of infected cows.

Last year, Dr. John Collinge, a leading Creutzfeld-Jakob expert at Imperial College in London, discovered that the tonics of some victims carry an infectious particle, called a prion, that seems to be responsible for the disease. The infectious prions are found throughout nervous and lymphatic tissue, including tonsils, and may incubate for years.

Sinn Fein 'Can't Deliver' On Disarmament Demand*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The leader of the Irish Republican Army's affiliated political party said Thursday that he "simply can't deliver" a start now to the group's disarmament, one of the long-postponed goals of the Northern Ireland peace process.

The blunt talk from the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, came on Capitol Hill after a particularly candid half-hour meeting Wednesday night inside the White House with his political rival, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader.

Mr. Adams said Mr. Trimble had asked him for "an event" in which a substantial range of IRA weaponry would be handed over to Northern Ireland's disarmament commission, which has waited nearly a year for the IRA to move. While Mr. Adams said he welcomed Mr. Trimble's "clearest definition yet of what he requires," he called the demand "a complete hindrance and precondition."

"And I can't stress enough, as I stand here, that I simply can't deliver that," said Mr. Adams, who was flanked by three congressional supporters in the House: Peter King, Republican of New York; Joe Crowley, Democrat of New York, and Richard Neal, Democrat of Massachusetts.

Mr. Trimble, the Protestant assigned to form a new Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland, refuses to support Sinn Fein's eligibility for office unless the IRA starts disarming first. Their deadlock has jeopardized that central goal of last year's Good Friday peace accord.

President Bill Clinton brought the warring leaders together Wednesday night after a ceremony honoring George Mitchell, the former senator who chaired the peace talks. The president asked prayers for vic-

tims of the violence in Northern Ireland.

"The mood of my meeting with Gerry Adams was very serious," Mr. Trimble said in an interview before Mr. Adams's press conference. "While nothing was resolved, it was a good talk. I was glad to see that Adams this time was seriously thinking about the issue of decommissioning, rather than just repeating his old script."

"I feel quite optimistic that, in the end, we will overcome this difficulty, because there really is no alternative," said Mr. Trimble, calling the IRA's gradual disarmament "a question now not of whether, but when."

But in a comment suggesting he had little influence over IRA policy, Mr. Adams said Mr. Trimble's position was leaving the supporters of both their parties "dependent on an organization over which they have no influence."

The British government has set this year's Good Friday, April 2, as a deadline for a deal.

Priest Urges Inquiry Into Murder

The priest conducting the funeral Thursday of a Roman Catholic human rights lawyer killed in a car-bombing by pro-British guerrillas called for an independent inquiry into her murder, Reuters reported from Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

"It is absolutely necessary that an independent inquiry be set up to investigate the circumstances surrounding the appalling death of Rosemary Nelson," the Reverend Kieran McPartlan said.

Late on Thursday, rioting erupted in nearby Portadown, a hard-line Protestant town. Gasoline bombs were thrown at police when they tried to break up a clash between Protestants and stone-throwing Catholics.



Tommy Magee, father of Rosemary Nelson, a Catholic human rights lawyer killed by a car bomb, and Mrs. Nelson's son Gavin, helping to carry the coffin Thursday to a church in Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

مكتبة الأحوال

TOSHIBA: MEETING THE VISIONS OF THE ADVANCED MARKETPLACE

With "Meet your visions," Toshiba affirms its intention to develop innovative products that meet the hopes and needs of its customers worldwide. More than that, the slogan also conveys the company's commitment to creating products that allow people to achieve their own visions and realize their full capabilities.

Toshiba is uniquely qualified for both goals. Its extensive product lineup extends from portable and desktop PCs to power generation and industrial systems. On the way, it embraces advanced storage systems, sophisticated system LSIs and other semiconductors and medical and imaging technologies. It's a range of technologically advanced products characterized by Toshiba's ability to anticipate and meet customer needs and to stay in the forefront of its markets.

The success of the company, now edging toward its 125th anniversary, is reflected in its results and scale of operations. In the fiscal year to March 31, 1998, worldwide sales totaled \$41.4 billion, while more than 186,000 employees support research and development, manufacturing, sales and marketing in 34 countries. All told, Toshiba invests the equivalent of 6 percent of total sales on a consolidated basis in R&D each year. In fiscal 1997, that added up to \$2.45 billion, assuring the market-leading features and capabilities of Toshiba's emerging products.

Strength in Europe
"Europe is one of Toshiba's key markets, and has been for over 30 years," says Hisatsugu Nonaka, president of Toshiba Europe GmbH, the European headquarters for the information and communications equipment businesses. Toshiba's pan-European sales in the year to March 1998 were \$4.1 billion, and are expected to grow this year.

In 1998, close to 24 million personal computers were sold in Europe. Figures from Dataquest show the market climbing to more than 36 million by 2002. In the same period, demand for mobile PCs is expected to double, from 3.3 million units to more than 6 million. Toshiba is ready for that expansion, Mr. Nonaka explains. "We are positioning Toshiba as an integrated provider, able to support our customers with total solutions in hardware and services."

Single media platform
Perhaps Toshiba is best known for its portable mobile PCs. The pioneer in mobile computing — Toshiba launched the world's very first laptop in Germany, back in 1985 — the company is also the perennial number 1 in the European and global market.

For all the talk of computers' offering a minimal, stripped-down efficiency, the mobile computer segment flourishes because of its ability to offer more for less. Toshiba portable PCs are continually being beefed up with cutting-edge technologies, offering more power even as they become progressively lighter, slimmer and less expensive. Toshiba has taken this one step further. In the European market, where corporate customers account for most of Toshiba's IT business, innovation also means meeting the needs of IT managers by combining state-of-the-art product with a lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

The short life cycle of portable PCs — a few months at most — adds complexity to already cumbersome IT infrastructures. With the Tecra notebook series, that's no longer a problem. Tecra computers are based on a one-motherboard platform that can be configured with different processors, screens and other key components to create customized PCs. The underlying design philosophy keeps the basic platform up to date for as long as two years — well into 2000 for the current generation — and that translates into significant savings in TCO. A Gartner Consulting study on TCO commissioned by Toshiba Europe showed that Tecras save corporate clients up to \$1,000 a year per notebook.

Toshiba's commitment to lower TCO also extends to the corporate desktop. The company's Equium 7100 series of business computers has been well-received for its full-featured functionality. Like Tecras, Equium computers are also built to support customers in achieving significant cost savings. Gartner



Toshiba's stand at the CeBIT trade fair, where it will showcase new products and technologies.

Consulting shows that putting an Equium on the desk generates TCO savings of more than \$500 a year.

Digital Convergence at CeBIT
In its support for business, Toshiba draws on the immense capabilities of digital convergence. That's made clear by the products the company is presenting at this year's CeBIT.

One must-see is the flexibility of ad hoc networking made possible by Bluetooth, the wireless connectivity technology Toshiba is promoting in a group formed with Intel, IBM, Ericsson and Nokia. Then there's the PDR-M4, a 2-million-plus pixel camera offering image quality rivaling those of conventional photography.

The PDR-M4 makes full use of SmartMedia, the small, nonvolatile memory card developed by Toshiba and currently available in 2, 4, 8, 16 and 32MB versions. Slipped into a floppy disk adapter or memory card, SmartMedia can load digital photos directly into a PC. It is also the ideal storage medium for MPEG videos and audio and voice files, as shown by Toshiba's new DMR-SX1 digital recorder. This holds up to 60 minutes of voice files on a 2MB SmartMedia card — which can be uploaded to a computer hard drive in minutes.

Perhaps the most striking

feature of digitization is the freedom and widened horizons it has brought to users. A few years ago, people bought computers to use word processors or spreadsheets. Today's computers let them take all kinds of information — sound, images, text — and then to meld, link, transmute and transmit it as something new. It is all adding new qualities to business presentations, and much more.

"For many people seeking the most from a computer, the obvious choice is a notebook PC," Mr. Nonaka says. "They offer a high level of performance and then the plus of unsurpassed mobility." Toshiba is keen to take this even further. "To that, we want to add yet another dimension by providing the means to access data-rich resources and applications. That is what we are doing with DVD."

DVD, the digital versatile disc, offers the huge storage capacities necessary for bringing movie-length videos, with high-quality image and sound, to a CD-sized disc. And that's just one application. For games, "edutainment" and virtually all areas where computers are used, DVD promises a heightened, more realistic experience.

"We were a leader in introducing DVD drives to PCs," Mr. Nonaka recalls, "and we are promoting new advances, such as DVD-RAM." In fact, Toshiba pioneered key enabling technologies for DVD as it is also a major OEM supplier of DVD-ROM and DVD-RAM. Toshiba will continue to promote

development of DVD drives as sales surpass those of CD-ROMs, which is expected to occur in the early years of the coming century.

Agility and innovation
Its products are not the only area in which Toshiba seeks development. Fully conscious of the intensifying demands of globalization and mega-competition, the company is poised to put in place a new, more robust business structure that will provide the basis for continued success in the 21st century. Mr. Nonaka explains: "On April 1st, we will complete a comprehensive reorganization. We are recasting Toshiba as eight in-house companies and one new joint venture."

Each company will operate autonomously, have the resources required to be a strong contender in its market area, and is expected to meet rigorous performance targets. Toshiba Europe and the other companies supporting the computer business in Europe will become part of the Digital Media Equipment & Services Company.

"We are very excited by the forthcoming change," Mr. Nonaka explains. "We expect to see an even more focused business organization that will be more agile in dealing with market shifts." As Toshiba works to help others meet their vision, it seems the company is succeeding in meeting its own and is ready for a profitable future. ●

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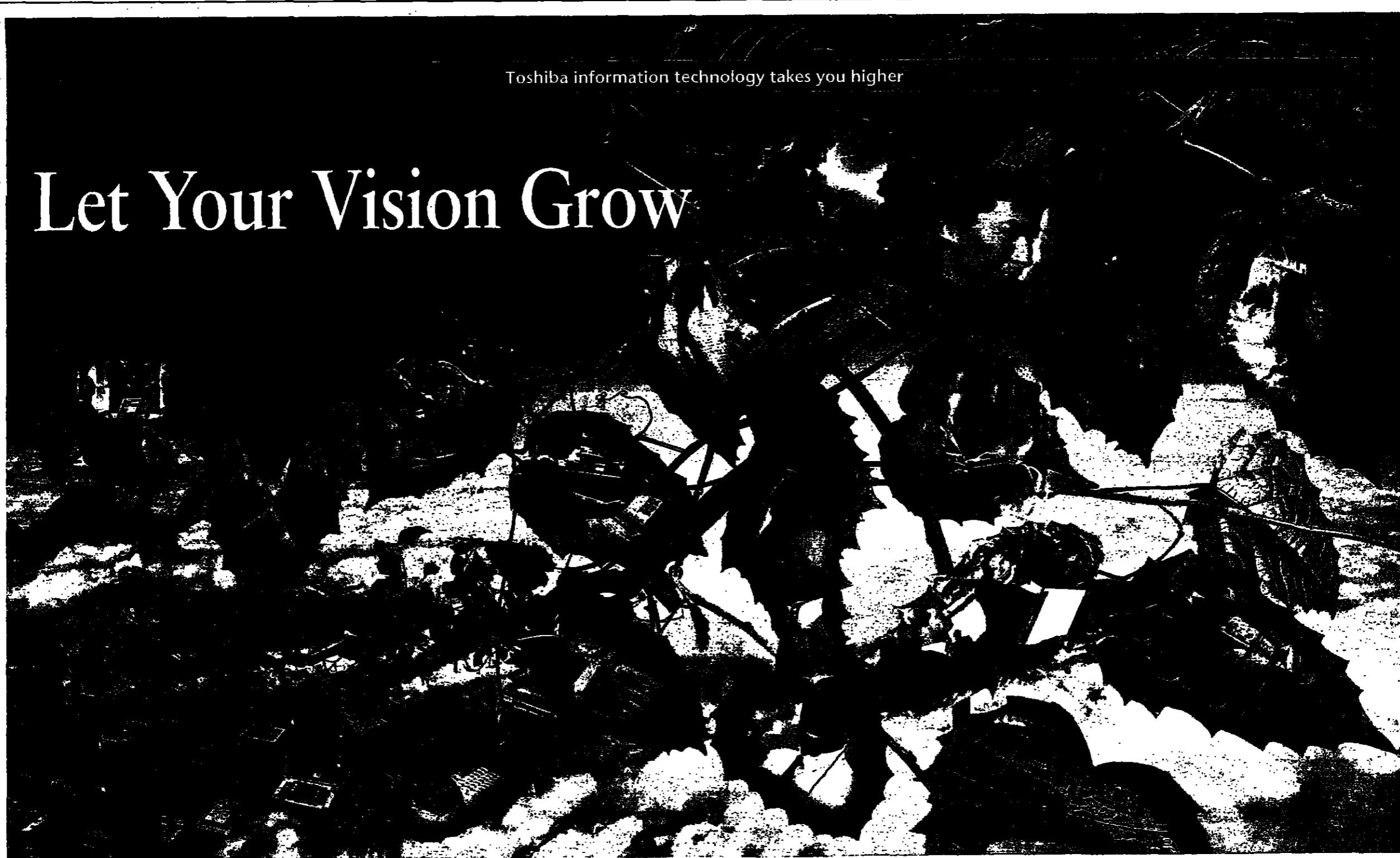
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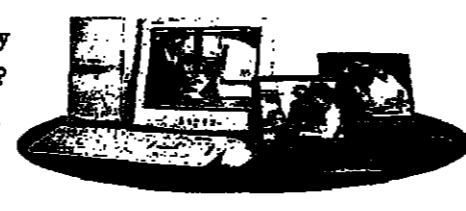
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ASIA/PACIFIC

South Korea and Japan Find a Way

Meeting Saturday Is Expected to Cement Their Reconciliation

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan and President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea hope to resolve most of their differences over North Korea when they meet Saturday to form a "unified policy" of reconciliation.

Both Japanese and Korean officials used such terms as "cooperation" and a "common strategy" toward the North to characterize the dominant theme of a summit meeting that also symbolizes what they see as a new era of goodwill between Japan and South Korea. The emphasis, they said Thursday, would be on "engagement" with the North, in accordance with Mr. Kim's sunshine policy of reconciliation.

They agreed that the task would be easier now that the North has said it will permit the United States to inspect a suspected underground nuclear site in exchange for agricultural assistance and food aid.

"Most important is the positions of the United States, Korea and Japan should be well adjusted," said Takeshi Hikihara, a Japanese diplomat here.

He admitted, however, what he delicately called "a slight difference in the weight of importance" attached by Japan and South Korea to North Korea's firing of a three-stage Taepo Dong-1 missile over Japan on Aug. 31.

That remark reflected the Japanese determination not to gloss over the significance of the missile launching in the artificial atmosphere of a summit meet-

ing seen as a major step toward removing the stigma of the Japanese colonial era from the Korean consciousness.

Mr. Obuchi, in Tokyo, underlined this aim by saying that Japan would welcome the chance to conduct its own inspection of the underground site. That way, he said, his government would "find it easier to solicit cooperation from the Japanese people" in improving relations with North Korea.

While the issue of the suspect site was "a matter to be pursued by the United States and North Korea," Mr. Obuchi reminded the Japanese Parliament, "we have a profound interest in it."

Mr. Obuchi noted that his Parliament still must approve Japan's contribution of \$1 billion to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, set up under the 1994 Geneva agreement to build nuclear power facilities for North Korea in return for the North's abandoning its nuclear weapons program.

Mr. Obuchi's remarks showed a level of concern that far transcends that of South Korean leaders. Officials here have yet to suggest that South Korean officials participate in talks about it with the North, much less ask to see it, and Mr. Kim has sought to prevent the issue from clouding his sunshine policy.

Japanese officials for their part have not hidden their disappointment over what they view as Seoul's muted response to the firing of the missile. The warmth of the summit talks, the Japanese made clear, will not necessarily heal all the wounds of the missile-firing.

The Japanese people "have to wait and see if North Korea shows goodwill toward Japan," said Mr. Hikihara.

Asked what Mr. Obuchi might see as such a sign, he responded, "there are so many ways to show goodwill."

Lingering disagreement over how best to deal with North Korea, however, is not likely to ruin the symbolism of the first visit by a Japanese leader to Seoul



WELCOMING AN ALLY — South Korean honor guards in Seoul bowing Thursday to Vice Admiral Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, who was visiting to discuss strengthening military ties.

Chinese Emissary to Visit Taiwan And Will Discuss Reunification

The Associated Press

TAIPEI — China's negotiator with Taiwan will make his first visit to the island in autumn — months after Taiwan had hoped he would come — and reunification should be on his meeting agenda, a Chinese envoy said Thursday.

The issue has been a key stumbling block as the two sides take halting steps toward restarting negotiations on their often tense relations.

Taiwan wants to focus first on more mundane issues, such as fishing disputes, in order to build up the mutual trust needed to deal with the thornier issue of reunification. The two sides met in the morning and afternoon and announced that China's top negotiator with Taiwan, Wang Daoan, would visit the island.

But no date was set, even though Taiwan had hoped to get more details from a

lower-ranking Chinese negotiator, Li Yafei, who is going home Friday.

Though disappointed, Shi Hwei-yow, Taiwan's chief negotiator with China, called the discussions a "good start" and said Taiwan would send a lower-ranking Taiwanese official to China next month to continue talks on arrangements for Mr. Wang's visit.

Mr. Li told the Taiwanese on Thursday that Mr. Wang was unable to come sooner because of scheduling difficulties, but would make the visit sometime around September.

Mr. Li's Taiwanese counterpart, Jan Jyh-horng, said the government respected China's views on the timing of Mr. Wang's trip, but that Taiwan wanted to set a date before Mr. Li left. China froze talks four years ago in anger over Taiwan's efforts to assert itself internationally.

They agreed that the task would be easier now that the North has said it will permit the United States to inspect a suspected underground nuclear site in exchange for agricultural assistance and food aid.

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Lingering disagreement over how best to deal with North Korea, however, is not likely to ruin the symbolism of the first visit by a Japanese leader to Seoul

in the 21st century," said Japan's ambassador to Korea, Ogura Kazuo.

Mr. Obuchi faces what may be his most critical test when he talks on Saturday afternoon at Korea University, a prestigious private institution here, on the Korean Peninsula before and during 35 years of colonial rule.

"Both nations put the past behind them and established a new foundation on which they will build a new relationship

in the 21st century," said Japan's ambassador to Korea, Ogura Kazuo.

Thousands of policemen were dispatched to guard the university, the scene of violent demonstrations against Korean leaders throughout the 1980s, while student leaders promised to block the entrance. "Mr. Obuchi has failed to show true remorse," said Kim Han Jin, a student. "We do not believe his apology. It was not sincere."

East Timor Peace Laureate Fears Disruption of Election

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — A week after the United Nations announced a plan for East Timor to vote on autonomy from Indonesia, a leading East Timorese advocate said here Thursday that the ballot should not be held until Indonesia withdrew some troops from the island.

"We oppose a vote without the troops first being out," said Jose Ramos-Horta, the exiled separatist leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 for his campaign to liberate East Timor from Indonesia. "The paramilitary's agenda is to disrupt the vote and intimidate the people."

Speaking to a small gathering in Hong Kong, Mr. Ramos-Horta declared that the momentum behind East Timorese independence was unstoppable. But he said that political elements were using the Indonesian armed forces to destabilize East Timor in advance of a vote on autonomy.

"The reality is that there are dark forces at work today in Indonesia," he said. "Power is very diffuse."

Under the terms of the United Nations' proposal plan, the East Timorese would vote on a proposal giving them autonomy in late-July or August. If, as many analysts predict, the proposal is rejected, Indonesia has indicated it would grant full independence to the province of 850,000 people.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it the following year. It has been racked by anti-government fighting ever since, with rights groups estimating that up to 200,000 East Timorese have died.

The turnaround in Indonesia's stance came last year, after the country slid into economic destitution and its longtime leader, President Suharto, was toppled. Indonesia's new president, B.J. Habibie, seems anxious to cut East Timor loose so he can focus on repairing the shattered economy.

Mr. Ramos-Horta said he feared that Indonesia's withdrawal from East Timor could become as chaotic as Portugal's was a quarter-century ago. He claimed that the Indonesian Army's intelligence unit was supplying weapons and training to militia groups that oppose autonomy.

Mr. Ramos-Horta also claimed the army had spent \$5 million over the last two months — to supply weapons to paramilitary groups — suggesting the campaign was backed by potent forces in Jakarta, perhaps allied with Mr. Suharto.

"There is no potential problem of a civil war in East Timor," he said. "The big fish responsible for this are in Jakarta." Secretary of State Madeleine Albright raised similar concerns about the arming of an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 paramilitary troops in a meeting with Indonesia's foreign minister this month.

Crowds Kill 43 In Ethnic Riots On Borneo

The Associated Press

JAKARTA — Rival ethnic groups armed with knives and swords clashed Thursday in a remote corner of the island of Borneo, burning homes, dismembering victims and killing 43 people.

The head of one of the victims was paraded through a village by a crowd, a witness said. More than 500 houses were set ablaze and some victims were dismembered in two days of fighting.

The violence that began Wednesday between four ethnic groups and immigrant farmers from the Indonesian island of Madura was apparently sparked by a dispute over an unpaid bus fare by an immigrant, said Brigadier Togar Sianepar, a national police spokesman.

The fighting on Borneo is the latest clash between rival ethnic and religious groups in Indonesia as it faces economic and political crises.

Since January, more than 200 people have been killed in clashes between Christians and Muslims on Amboi in the country's east.

Many fear violence will escalate across the nation as it prepares to hold its most open parliamentary election in 45 years June 7. Police and troops armed with rifles were sent to Tebas and Pernangkat districts near Indonesia's border with Malaysia.

Chaherul Rafidi, a local police chief, said 43 people had been killed in the two districts since the violence began with indigenous Malay, Bugis, Dayak as well as ethnic Chinese people on one side and immigrants on the other.



VERSACE

Japanese Suicides Hit Record

TOKYO — More Japanese killed themselves last year than ever before as a prolonged economic slump contributed to a dramatic rise in suicides among middle-aged men, according to government figures released Thursday.

Suicides rose to 27,102 in the first 10 months of 1998, an increase of 38 percent from the year-earlier period, a Health and Welfare Ministry official said.

The number of suicides was 1,435 more than for all of 1986, the previous record year, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The suicide rate increased rapidly among men in their 40s, 50s and 60s, a group especially hard hit by rising job losses as Japan struggles through its deepest, postwar recession. Japan's suicide rate is one of the world's highest, with 17.2 people per 100,000 people taking their lives each year.

(AP)

Philippine Captives to Be Freed

MANILA — Philippine Communist guerrillas have agreed to release four captive army and police officers, possibly paving the way for a resumption of peace talks, negotiators said Thursday.

A formal agreement to free them on humanitarian grounds was signed in the Netherlands on Wednesday by Manila peace mission and rebel leaders, said Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Philippine Communist Party, in an interview broadcast on Philippine television. (Reuters)

OPINION/LETTERS

Americans Can't Keep Peace That Isn't There

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — This week, just days after the House of Representatives had narrowly defeated a resolution opposing the deployment of U.S. troops as part of a NATO peacekeeping force in Kosovo, Douglas Farah of The Washington Post reported some disquieting news about a previous peacekeeping mission to Haiti.

The chief of the U.S. Southern Command, General Charles Wilhelm, had told a closed session of a House subcommittee last month that he wanted the troops removed from Haiti because the continuing instability of that poverty-stricken island nation put them at too grave a risk, according to a transcript of the hearing.

You may be surprised if you are surprised to learn that the U.S. Army is still in Haiti. It has been more than four years since the September day in 1994 when President Bill Clinton sent a force of 20,000 troops onto the island. There was immense relief when last-minute negotiations cleared the way for their arrival; when they left their bases, they had expected to have to fight their way ashore. But the generals running the country backed down, and soon were replaced — thanks to U.S. forces — by the elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Neither Mr. Aristide nor his successor, René Préval, has been able to bring peace or democracy to Haiti. Factional fighting has immobilized the government and stymied efforts

at economic recovery. And now that the factionalism has provoked assassinations and bombings, the 500 U.S. troops still in Haiti spend much of their energy just trying to protect themselves against those they came to help.

It would be difficult for the Clinton administration to accept the general's call for a pullout, for it would concede the failure of a peacekeeping mission regularly touted as one of the signal achievements of recent years.

It would be especially embarrassing at the very moment when the administration is trying to squelch opposition in Congress — fed by such foreign policy luminaries as Henry Kissinger — to sending 4,000 U.S. troops to Kosovo in a new peacekeeping mission.

Two days before peace talks resumed between the Serbian forces occupying Kosovo and the rebel forces who claim to speak for the 90 percent Albanian population of the province, bombs planted by unknown perpetrators killed at least seven people — a reminder of how far from peace Kosovo remains.

During congressional debate, the question repeatedly raised was what assurance the administration could give that once the troops were sent into Kosovo, they would ever be able to get out. The response was that without NATO troops on the ground, the killing would go on, and without U.S. participation, America's European



The West

allies would not go it alone. This was the latest manifestation of what might be called the Wilsonian conundrum. It was President Woodrow Wilson, after World War I, who most boldly asserted the doctrine that the United States would not only use its might to protect its national interests against any external threats but would aid the struggle for democracy, freedom and self-determination of oppressed people wherever it was being fought.

Wilson's ideas have influenced almost all his successors, from Franklin Roosevelt through Mr. Clinton.

Under the slogan of human

rights, liberation of captive nations or peacekeeping, they have tried — with only intermittent success — to lift U.S. foreign policy beyond the crass calculations of power politics and into the exalted realm of morality and justice.

What we have learned, I think, is that all those good values cannot be imposed at the point of a gun — even if the gun is held by an American soldier who wants nothing in return but a safe trip home.

Peace cannot be built until the warring parties have exhausted themselves and are ready to take the responsibility on themselves to turn a new

page. An example is Northern Ireland, where decades of sectarian violence blessedly have given way to a shaky peace.

The United States, led personally by Mr. Clinton, played an honorable and vital role in bringing about that change. But it did so at the conference table, using diplomats, not troops.

The lesson is not that Americans should never be peacekeepers; rather, that there has to be a peace to keep. Sending in the military to impose a peace on people who have not settled ancient quarrels has to be the last resort, not the standard way of doing business.

The Washington Post

Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia: Why Not to Intervene in Kosovo

By Alan Tonelson and Ted Galen Carpenter

LOS ANGELES — Before President Bill Clinton sends a proposed 4,000 U.S. soldiers on a peacekeeping mission to Kosovo, he should consider this sobering reality: Peacekeeping operations all over the world are falling apart, despite the investment of billions of U.S. dollars and several dozen lives. Rather than continue pushing America's luck in regions irrelevant to the nation's direct security and well-being, Mr. Clinton should end this grandiose post-Cold War experiment in fixing failed states.

The list of failed peace missions is long and growing. Somalia remains a hotbed of chaos and clan warfare following ambitions United Nations and U.S. attempts at nation-building. Five years after a U.S. invasion aimed at "restoring democracy in Haiti, another leader, President René Préval, just dissolved Parliament, while the country's economy remains a basket case and political violence is on the rise.

Cambodia, once touted as the signature peacekeeping success, has descended into renewed dictatorship.

The United Nations has just beaten a hasty retreat from Angola, where a long-simmering civil conflict has reigned. A multiyear UN mediation and peace-keeping effort collapsed in December,

when Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola guerrillas attacked government forces.

The original UN mission in Bosnia floundered and its NATO-led successor has long exceeded its deadline. Yet, after three years of occupation by the world's most powerful military alliance, Bosnia shows few signs of becoming a viable country, as tacitly acknowledged by the Clinton administration's warnings that setting deadlines for U.S. troop withdrawals could plunge it back into chaos.

These dismal results should not be surprising. U.S. participation in peace operations was always a dubious policy. The failed states involved fit no traditional definition of vital or even significant U.S. interests. None is militarily strong enough to threaten the United States or its major allies. None is a significant market for U.S. goods or a major site of U.S. investment. None supplies any scarce raw materials.

Nor, despite numerous warnings, have their troubles repeatedly spilled over to other countries. Until the Asian financial crisis, most of Cambodia's neighbors boomed economically and cohered socially, despite that country's

troubles. Interventionists portray the Kosovo crisis as the inevitable result of Bosnia's recent war, but the Albanian Kosovars' grievances against their Serb rulers long predate that conflict. Indeed, Bosnia's continuing woes have not prevented Slovenia from prospering.

Just as important are the costs of U.S. involvement in peacekeeping. The price of the Bosnia mission has hit \$12 billion, with no end in sight. Haiti has cost more than \$2 billion. Washington has spent \$1.5 billion on tiny, remote Rwanda.

Moreover, as finally acknowledged by the administration, peacekeeping obligations have stretched U.S. combat forces dangerously thin and increased the tempo of military operations far beyond prudent norms.

Interventionists have long emphasized America's alleged moral interests in helping failed states through peace operations. But how moral is it to risk U.S. lives in unnecessary and futile ventures? The record shows that outside forces have not the vaguest idea how to fix failed states at any politically acceptable or strategically sensible price.

Interventionists inside and outside the administration insist that U.S. super-

power status requires actively supporting UN and NATO peace operations. Yet, the reality is just the opposite. Precisely because the United States is so strong, wealthy and substantially self-sufficient, it can afford to ignore tempests in local teapots, however tragic.

Mr. Tonelson is a research fellow at the U.S. Business and Industrial Council Educational Foundation. Mr. Carpenter is vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute. They contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

Paying to Have Life Tidied Up In Dirt-Under-the-Rug Culture

By Louise Rafskin

EMERYVILLE, California — It seems as if just about everyone in California can afford a housecleaner these days. Housecleaners used to be the coveted prizes of the middle or upper classes: "Mine even does the ironing!" were once fighting words.

But I know cabdrivers and waiters who cough up \$40 a week for a good once-over. Even recent college graduates are hiring help, and adver-

Now in her 90s, she is once again dirt poor, living off the generosity of her last employer, whom she stopped working for more than 20 years ago.

This story should not be repeated in today's world, because employers are required to pay Social Security for their servants. But the difference between the lives of those served and those doing the serving can still be disconcerting.

One majordomo whom I met recently said his job was to open every door for his "madame" and be at the ready if she dropped a tissue. "She has never run her own bath," he said. "I don't think she would know how."

I questioned whether this rich woman

MEANWHILE

timents for roommates often include the price of a shared cleaning lady.

"You do your own cleaning?" I was recently asked by a twenty-something acquaintance. "I wouldn't even know how to mop a floor."

It's no wonder that more affluent households are taking the next step: hiring full-time butlers. There is even a school that trains butlers and house managers — the Professional Domestic Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

Students in the program learn basic skills like cooking and cleaning, although a glance at the school's Web page shows that prospective butlers seem willing to do just about anything.

When the cost of such all-inclusive care runs as low as \$25,000 a year, who wouldn't mind having someone else do the ironing and to make sure there was enough toilet paper in the house? And who could possibly complain about being met at the door with a fresh martini being met at the door with a fresh martini after a long day at the office?

Still, I fear where this trend might be leading us. America was founded on the principle of a classless society, but that is an ideal we have never achieved. And as the economic gap between the haves and the have-nots grows wider, I wonder if we are returning to the days when everyone knew his or her place.

In the 1920s and '30s, when rich was rich and poor was poor, big houses employed more than 30 servants. At William Randolph Hearst's estate on Long Island, New York, one man's entire job was to dust table legs. (Another member of the staff kept the table tops dust free.)

These houses were staffed largely with Europeans, especially Irish and English servants who were well versed in what it meant to serve. This also allowed employers to sidestep the messy issues of race. An Englishwoman I know who worked for the Hearsts, as well as for the Fricks and a branch of the Kennedy clan, told me she easily found work because employers thought her accent gave homes an air of European refinement, even though she came from dirt-poor country stock.

was able to understand people less fortunately than herself.

"She didn't understand me," he snipped, "when I asked for one day off a week." Needless to say, he is no longer working for her.

A friend of mine who is a writer and also works as a "personal assistant" to an artist complains that her employer does not understand what can or can't be done, or how long it takes to accomplish something. Her boss has never tried to buy swim goggles at 10 P.M. or send flower seeds abroad (a no-no).

The people who hire servants can avoid taking responsibility for their own lives. We live in a sweep-under-the-rug culture: We make messes, and then we ignore them. Or we hope no one finds out about them. Or we bury the mess in the Nevada desert — and then hope the bucket doesn't leak.

We expect that somehow, someone else will take care of everything — and that someone is too often regarded as somebody whose life is not worth as much as ours.

The writer, author of "Other People's Dirt: A Housecleaner's Curious Adventures," contributed this comment to The New York Times.

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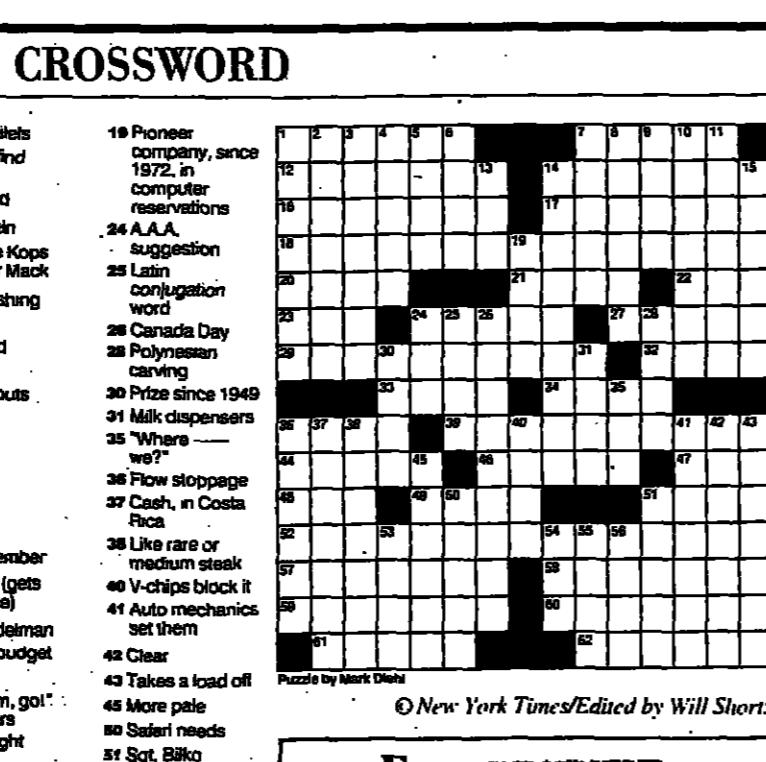
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CROSSWORD



Leisure

Essence of a Colonial Past Infuses Neglected Malacca

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

MALACCA, Malaysia — In a country where "old" is often defined as pre-1970, this city with its hibiscus-red colonial buildings and ornately carved facades is an oasis of history.

As progress and development have marched across Malaysia, one small corner of the country seems to have been spared. Still intact are Malacca's centuries-old shop-houses, its church built in 1753 and the ruins of a fort erected by the Portuguese about 450 years ago to secure the once strategic port.

As one ambles through the streets of the city, it is difficult to fathom Malacca's crucial role in the region's — and indeed the world's — commercial history. An adage from the early years of European colonialism in Asia perhaps says it best: "He who is lord of Malacca has his hand on the throat of Venice."

Malacca was the gateway to the spice islands, an entrepot for cloves, cinnamon, pepper and nutmeg. The narrow straits off the city, still some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, held the key to the lucrative spice trade for Europeans, who began their trips to the region in the early 1500s.

It was only in the last century, when the British moved their regional headquarters south to Singapore, that Malacca lost its strategic significance.

Today, the city's charm is its neglect. The local government has done little to polish the appearance of the historic district, a series of streets packed with sometimes rickety, narrow shop-houses. Local officials refuse to pay for renovations of the 18th-century church — the Dutch government paid the last time, in the 1980s — and talk of building a pedestrian promenade beside the oldest houses has remained just that.

The result: Many parts of the historic center still function independently of tourist dollars. Dilapidated buildings replete with elaborate tiles and carvings house barber shops, loan sharks, funeral parlors and furniture shops. Local patrons of tea stalls mingle and converse oblivious of the tourists who walk past the shop's marble-top tables and distinctive wooden chairs.

The hidden splendor of these buildings has not gone entirely unnoticed. Singaporeans, among others, are buying up the old houses and converting them into boutique hotels and cafes to complement the art galleries and trinket shops.

But history in Malacca resides not only in the rows of old shop-houses and nearby fort and church. There are gems throughout the city, although many are lost in Malacca's sometimes ugly and congested streets.

One is tucked away behind the fort: a small cemetery that speaks of the history of early colonists and their travails. Amid tombstones of former governors and military officers is the grave of Edward Hugh Massy, the 1-year-old son of a British lieutenant stationed in Malacca in the early 1800s. His grieving parents left a little piece of poetry on his gravestone: "This lovely bud so young and fair call'd hence by early doom just came to shew how sweet a flower in paradise would bloom."

SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

It is through such tombstones that Malacca betrays the identities of its past and present inhabitants. Few cities in the world can claim such an eclectic heritage. Malacca was founded by a Sumatran prince in the 14th century and saw successive waves of Portuguese, Dutch and British colonists met by traders from India, China and Java, among other places.

Some groups, like the Chittys from

India and the descendants of Portuguese settlers, formed separate communities that remain today. Each race and culture has left its mark on the city — whether it is the spicy Portuguese food or the Armenian inscriptions on the floor of Christ Church. Indeed, part of the challenge for visitors to this old port is to try to disentangle the city's European and Oriental influences.

VISITORS today range from Singaporeans who drive here on weekends to the droves of Europeans who, as their ancestors did, often come in groups.

Malacca is halfway between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore — two cities that have clearly succumbed to concrete and steel — making it an easy destination for a day trip.

Visitors who stay the night have choices among four and five-star hotels or boutique hotels in the historic part of town, a neighborhood recently made more lively with the addition of bars that stay open late.

At the heart of the historic area, next to the Dutch-built Christ Church, is the creaking State Historical Museum, housed in the former Dutch governor's house, and filled with dioramas, furniture and period costumes. Next door is the Youth Museum, a dark and puzzling series of rooms filled with sports trophies and dedicated to the not-so-youthful politicians who built it.

Also to be avoided is a nightly outdoor historical performance, denied by



Tourists can visit the refurbished Christ Church, built by the Dutch in 1753, and take a ride down Jonkers Street for a look at Malaccan architecture.



Malaccans as the sound, light and mosquito show.

But no visit to the city is complete without a journey to the top of St. Paul's hill, where the ruins of a fortress mix with the giant, 17th-century tomb markers of fallen Dutchmen.

In the distance, plying the muddy straits, are the outlines of container ships that all but ignore once-mighty Malacca.

—

The Lakeside Charms of Geneva

As Springtime Nears, the Shores and City Streets Come Alive

By Elizabeth Olson
New York Times Service

GEVA — Easter approaches and Geneva is shaking off its winter doldrums. It stops being a way station for skiers and comes into its own as a lovely flower-filled city on Western Europe's largest lake.

Geneva's streets are alive with bicyclists, skaters, office workers and tourists, who treat themselves to a coffee or a meal at outdoor cafés at the first hint of tolerable weather. Suddenly crowds cluster around the beautifully manicured flower clock and marvel at the 476-foot (145-meter) column of water that is Geneva's best-known landmark. Visible from all around the city, the Jet d'Eau spews 132 gallons into the sky each second from a pier on the lake's southern shore.

With spring's arrival, tourists and residents begin enjoying sparkling Lake Geneva, known to the Swiss as Lac Leman. Boats, including four Belle Epoque steamboats, stop at nearby picture-postcard villages such as Yvoire in France, or go far up the lake to Montreux to the fairytale Château de Chillon of Lord Byron's poem. Cruises operate on Sundays in May, with several trips a day after May 31. Prices vary, with a full-day outing starting at \$33. (All prices are calculated at 1.5 Swiss francs to the dollar.)

There are walking and cycling paths that lead past some magnificent architecture, such as the 14th-century Maison Tavel with its tower, the oldest house in Geneva; the Gothic houses on the Old Town's main street, the Grand Rue, and the Cathedral of St. Pierre, which dates to the 12th century.

The city as nature preserve can be explored on boats that ply the Rhône River between April and November. Starting at the Pont de l'Ile, Quai des Moulins, the "mouettes" (long, low covered boats) glide quietly for almost three hours, passing ducks, swans and

gray herons, which live in abundance along the forested river, where hunting is banned.

Boats leave daily at 2:15 P.M., with additional 10 A.M. trips on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The fare is \$14.75 for adults, \$10 for children.

Musée Rath, 4 Place Neuve, will show monumental engravings from the last quarter-century by the German artist Georg Baselitz, from May 1 to Aug. 15. He combined engraving and painting to produce outside works. The museum is closed Mondays, open noon to 9 P.M. on Wednesday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. all other days and admission is \$3.35. Call (41-22) 418-3340 for information.

Starting Friday, the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, 2 Rue Charles-Collard, will display nearly 100 elaborately ornamented shields from Africa, Asia and Oceania that are part of its Barbier-Mueller Collection. The exhibition runs through Sept. 5. Through the fall, the museum will also feature an exhibit of European paintings from the 17th to the 20th centuries, including works by Corot, Cézanne, Monet and Renoir. Open 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Tuesday to Sunday; admission is \$3.55. (41-22) 418 2600.

For those interested in charting the course of Swiss history over more than a century, the Maison Tavel, 6 Rue du Puits-St-Pierre, will offer an exhibit through April 25 of 150 photographs from the Swiss Foundation for Photography, the Forum of the History of Switzerland and private collections, with work representing each year between 1848 and the present. Open noon to 5 P.M. Tuesday to Saturday; 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sunday. Admission: \$2. (41-22) 310 2900.

Dionizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" will be presented by the Teatro Comunale di Firenze on March 16, 19, 22, 25 and 30 and April 2 at the Grand Théâtre, Place Neuve, followed by Wagner's "Rheingold" in production by Cercle du Grand Théâtre on April 30 and May 3, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16. The cellist Yo-Yo Ma

and the pianist Kathryn Stott will perform at Victoria Hall, 14 Avenue General Dufour, at 8:30 P.M. April 28 in a program of Stravinsky, Brahms and Bach.

Geneva offers two international exhibitions each spring: the International Fair for Books, Press and Multimedia, April 14 to 18, featuring books and magazines from around Europe, and the International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and New Products, with 1,000 new inventions from 44 countries; both are at the Palexpo center and admission is \$7.

WHAT TO SEE The most charming part of Geneva is its Old Town. Start at the Place du Bourg-de-Four, with its 18th-century fountain decorated with flowers, its little bistro with tables spilling out onto the street and its tony shops. As long ago as Roman times, the square was a gathering place where markets were held. City dwellers came to collect drinking water, brought by aqueduct from nearby mountains. The area is also where John Calvin spoke during the Protestant Reformation.

The Old Arsenal, with five cannons tucked under its arcades opposite the Town Hall, is a favorite climbing and picture-taking spot. The old artillery once protected the city's ramparts. Seized by the Austrians in 1813, the cannons were returned in 1923. The arsenal features some mosaics dating from 1949 depicting important chapters in Geneva's history, among them the arrival of Julius Caesar in 58 B.C. and the welcoming of Huguenot refugees during the Reformation.

Geneva's hilly streets may be daunting for some. An easy way to cover them is by mini-train, which departs the Place Neuve and winds through the Old Town. The mini-trains also transport people to sites around the lake.

Go to the Quai du Mont-Blanc for trains leaving for the Right Bank circuit, which takes about 40 minutes and includes the Botanical Gardens, several international institutions and parks as

well as lake views. Service starts April 1. A stroll down to the Rhône leads to the remains of the 13th-century Tour de l'Île constructed to protect the city against the Savoyards. Only the tower was spared after several fires damaged it. Restored in 1897, it is topped by a clock. At its base is a bronze statue of a hero of Geneva's independence, Philibert Berthelier, who was tortured and beheaded there in 1519. About three minutes away is the splendid Forces Motrices, built in 1836 in the industrial style as a hydroelectric plant, but renovated recently for use as a theater.

ROOMS WITH A VIEW The 51-room Hotel Strasbourg-Univers, at 10 Rue Pradier, is right near the train station. It

has a fresh feel, with newly renovated rooms in a light green and mustard color scheme. This Best Western has Internet, modem and fax connections in each room and double-glazed windows for quiet; doubles begin at \$127.

The Hotel Eden, 135 Rue de Lausanne, is a favorite for visitors to the United Nations nearby. For those who cannot be separated from e-mail and the Web, each of the 54 rooms — done up in cheerful blue plaid — is connected to the Internet. It overlooks a park by the lake, and the rooms have screens on the windows. Doubles start at \$167, with breakfast. Its restaurant is open weekdays.

Families who want a glimpse of rural Swiss life within close range of Geneva can try a *gîte*, or farmhouse. The nearest one to Geneva, 15 minutes from downtown, is Chez Jacques Imobersteg, 74 Route de Coudres, in Cologny, a small house that sleeps up to six, overlooks the lake and costs \$53 to \$67 a day.

A charming choice (and perhaps the only budget hotel overlooking the Rhône) is Hotel des Tourelles, 2 Boulevard James-Fazy. The 23 rooms in this family-operated establishment feature modern decor and new prefabricated baths. Four tiered rooms face the water. Doubles start at \$80.

When you want a bite, sample a

Geneva institution at Mère Royaume, 9 Rue de Corps-Saints. There are two floor-to-ceiling stained-glass windows celebrating a woman who, in 1602, dumped a cauldron of soup on a Savoyard invader. Dinner for two, with a good Swiss wine, such as Yvorne, Clos de Georges 1996, runs \$160. Specialties are veal (\$27) and bass in pastry (\$29), and there is a splendid dessert cart. It is closed Sunday, and offers only dinner on Saturday.

A RHÔNE RIVER boat outing can culminate with a wonderful meal at the Café de Peney, part of the nearby deluxe Château Vieux restaurant and hotel, which is just steps from the boat stop. The café's colorful floor tiles make the decor. A lunch for two, with lobster ravioli, fish in risotto, lamb chops and choice of dessert was \$60, plus wine.

A less costly Geneva institution is Brasserie Lipp, 8 Rue de la Confédération, a lively place for good food, especially fish. It is now serving a Geneva specialty: perch fillets from the lake. Dinner for two starts at \$53.

For lunch, Les Fous de la Place, 21 Rue de la Cornaterie, offered a hearty *plat du jour* of chicken, rice and green beans for \$10. Red mullet for two with wine was \$53. Closed Sunday and Monday.

DINING

A Disappointing Search for the Perfect Fish

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Say "fish restaurant" and I'll be the first to get in line at the door. So the second my calendar was clear, I reserved a table at the city's newest restaurant devoted to the fruits of the sea, Aristippe.

Nestled not far from the Palais Royal, this 40-seat restaurant is an all-white affair, greeting you with a welcoming entry that reminds you of a clean, white front porch in the country.

Unfortunately, the second I stepped inside I was hit not by a fresh sea breeze but a stale, stagnant, fishy odor. And the evening pretty much went downhill from there.

Gilles Le Galles, last seen cooking at La Barrière de Clichy just outside Paris, has received a warm and positive response from the French press, an enthusiasm I simply cannot share.

Service at Aristippe — named for the Greek philosopher Aristippus, who maintained that people should devote their lives to the pursuit of pleasure —

was slow as slow can be. Waiters seemed to have no training (except in how to ignore diners), and the food was universally boring, unimaginative, stuck in the mud.

The most disappointing dish of the evening was named for one of France's greatest and most inventive fish chefs, Gilbert Le Coze, who died in 1994. With his sister, Maguy, he lit up the Paris food world in the 1980s at the popular fish restaurant Le Bernardin, which set new standards for freshness and simplicity. Le Coze's *langoustines rôties* was dull and faded, a meager serving of langoustines seared in their shells and bathed in a ho-hum sauce.

(I dearly wanted to march into the kitchen and say to the chef: "I knew Gilbert Le Coze. And you are no Gilbert Le Coze.")

Equally drab was the main-course *blanquette de lotte*, not much more than a dreary portion of monkfish in a creamed sauce, topped with a slice of grilled bacon and a mound of basmati rice. Likewise, the turbot (nicely paired with salsify, a most under-utilized

winter vegetable) could have been any white fish; it was so lacking in personality.

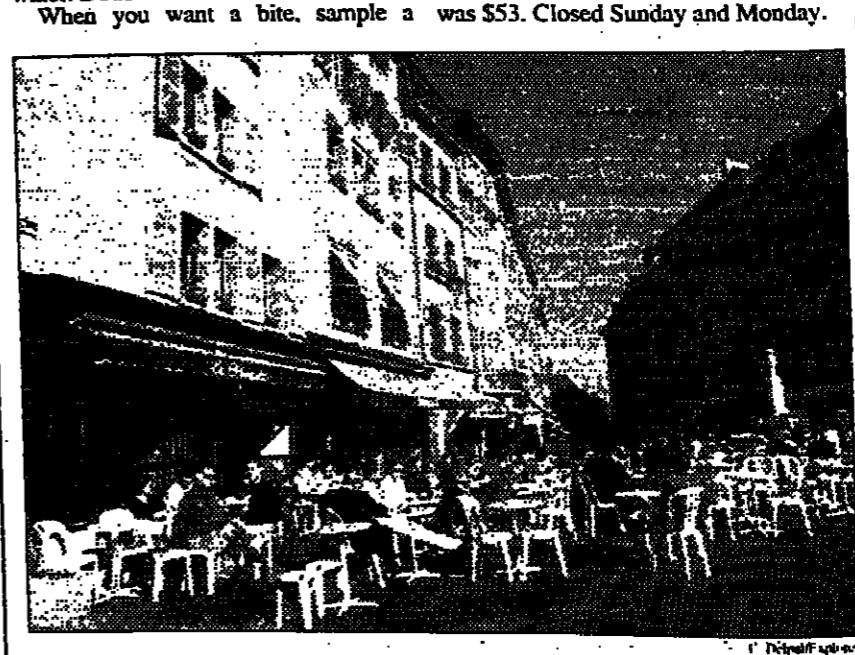
If I had made the dull *tarte fine aux pommes* — thin apple tart — I would have thrown it in the garbage and gone back to the pastry board. The pastry had all the flavor of a piece of cardboard and the fruit lacked that delicious winter acidity that France's best apples supply.

The only redeeming quality came from Domaine Mardon's flinty white Quincy — a Sauvignon blanc with a smoky, spicy nose — well priced here at 95 francs (about \$16) a bottle.

This is not a good moment for fish. Sushi lovers will not be happy after a trip to the new and trendy Lo Sushi, one of the chic and modern restaurants in the neighborhood of the Champs-Elysées. Oh how I wish it were better, for the lively, beautiful spot — designed by Andree Putman with its conveyor belt of sushi at the bar, multimedia screens clicking away, pastel-colored saucers to denote the price of

Lo Sushi, 8 Rue de Berri, Paris 8; tel: 01-45-62-01-00; fax: 01-45-62-01-10. Credit cards: Visa, Amex. Closed Saturday lunch, Sunday and two weeks in August. 170 franc lunch menu: 220-franc tasting menu. *A la carte*, 175 to 245 francs, including service but not wine.

Patricia Wells can be reached on the Web at: www.patriciawells.com



Geneva flows to outdoor cafés at the first hint of tolerable weather.

MOVIE GUIDE

RUSHMORE*Directed by Wes Anderson, U.S.*

This portrait of the mogul as a young man arrives courtesy of Wes Anderson, whose bright, spiky "Rushmore" has the brainstrom of envisioning a 15-year-old wanna-be tycoon as a schoolboy. At Rushmore Academy, in scenes filmed at the director's own Texas alma mater, horrid little Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman) calls the shots. Oh, sure, the place has faculty, but none of the grown-ups have anything like Max's natural authority. Maybe one man on the scene, the steel tycoon and Rushmore benefactor played by Bill Murray, is right on the same wavelength with Max. While the film embroils Max and the mogul in pursuit of the same beautiful teacher (Olivia Williams), it is a particular treat for its skewed, hilarious memories of a cutthroat boyhood. Spectated Max starts off on top of the Rushmore world and experiences a wonderfully welcome consequence. As directed by Anderson and written by him with Owen Wilson (his partner on "Bottle Rocket," which "Rushmore" far surpasses), it is too smart to be maudlin. "Rushmore" also includes a sweet turn by Seymour Cassel as Max's father and a spittingly indignant one from Brian Cox as the headmaster. (Janet Maslin, NYT)



Bill Murray and Jason Schwartzman in "Rushmore."

his career. Along with the hits and the heartburn, Vitti must now deal with competition from the influx of Chinese and Russian mafias. Is it any wonder he comes down with a Godfather complex, whose symptoms include heart palpitations, erectile dysfunction, crying jags and panic attacks? To that end, he starts seeing Ben Sobol (Crystal), a family therapist with a roster of patients suffering from hilariously humdrum ills. Vitti and Sobol make the perfect comedic odd couple. Alas, Vitti's breakthrough is postponed when he tells his chief rival, Primo (Chazz Palminteri), that he is seeking "closure with you." Primo doesn't know from closure, but the word has a finality about it that he doesn't like. Matters are further complicated by the doctor's marriage to a Miami broadcaster (Lisa Kudrow), Primo's vendetta against Vitti and the arrival of the FBI, which

gets wind of a forthcoming mob summit. For the most part, these events don't show or say anything new, nor do they nudge the story onward. "Analyze This" celebrates the brio of gangster life but also acknowledges the increasing dysfunctionality of traditional crime family values. Psychiatry is also suffering through an identity crisis in the field of aromatherapy and St. John's wort. (Rita Kempley, WP)

PIZZICATA*Directed by Edoardo Winspeare, Italy.*

Good fortune literally falls out of the sky in Edoardo Winspeare's "Pizzicata," a winsome Italian film set in southern Italy in 1943. A handsome Italian-American soldier by the name of Tony Marciano (Fabio Frasconi) is forced to parachute into rural Italy, near the place where he was born. He also falls into the midst of a family, including a beautiful, lonely young woman named Cosima (Chiara Torelli). Since Tony speaks fluent Italian, it is not difficult for the head of the family, Carmine, to pass the young man off as a distant relative, and so Tony's inauguration into rustic Italian life begins. It is a life that includes a lot of the impassioned, barefoot dancing from which the film takes its composite title. The joyous *pizzicata* is an amorous and festive dance, set to the beat of tambourines and bearing a resemblance to Greek folk dancing. The *tarantula* is a mad dance of grief and longing, and within the story of "Pizzicata" there is room for both. Winspeare, who previously made documentaries, calls this first feature "a declaration of love for my country." "Pizzicata" warmly evokes the landscape of Salento and the modest lives of its peasant farmers. There is a strong sense of community and fellowship here, not to mention such charming local color as chickens roaming outside Carmine's farmhouse, melodious singing and frequent references to local olives and wine. Many of the film's minor players appear to be local villagers who contribute greatly to the inviting naturalness of "Pizzicata." (Janet Maslin, NYT)

BOOKS

ALL TOO HUMAN
A Political Education*By George Stephanopoulos. Illustrated. 456 pages. \$27.95. Little, Brown and Co.*

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

THE awkward title of the new memoir by President Bill Clinton's former adviser, George Stephanopoulos, seems meant as a commentary on the author's famously flawed former boss and on the author himself. The book depicts Clinton as a man of contradictions, a politician whose very "shamelessness is a key to his political success," a man whose "capacity for denial is tied to the optimism that is his greatest political strength."

At the same time, it creates a sort of bildungsroman portrait of the author as a young man whose idealism is tempered by "raw ambition," a one-time altar boy turned political operative, whose messianic fervor on behalf of the candidate he helped get elected gradually gives way to disillusion and doubt.

The publication of "All Too Human" has brought much debate on the book talk shows about loyalty and discretion, but the book is a far cry from the devastating indictments of previous administrations offered by other insiders.

It lacks the cold-blooded voyeurism of H.R. Haldeman's "Diaries," which depicted the Nixon White House as a paranoid bunker. It eschews the sneering viluphany that has animated such books as Donald Regan's "For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington," which depicted a White House in thrall to Nancy Reagan's astrologer, and David Stockman's "The Triumph of Politics: Why the Reagan Revolution Failed."

In fact, Stephanopoulos's memoir in large measure simply amplifies the portrait of the president and his administration already offered by insiders like the one-time presidential adviser Dick Morris and the former labor secretary Robert Reich, as well as a host of journalists. It is a portrait of a White House riven by infighting and disorganization, and an indefatigable if often indecisive president given to volcanic rages and sentimental spasms, a compulsive politician with a "natural inclination toward conciliation and a Panglossian faith in his ability to achieve what he willed."

Stephanopoulos notes in his prologue that he had intended — before Monica Lewinsky — to write the story of how "an ambitious and idealistic president of uncertain personal character grew in of-

fice" and how a group of "good, talented but fallible people" tried to use what Vaclav Havel calls "the art of the possible" — that is, political maneuvering, intrigue and deal-making — to effect "the art of the impossible, namely, the art of improving ourselves and the world."

The revelations of last year changed Stephanopoulos's appraisal of his former boss. "I was angry at Clinton," he writes, "for selfishly risking his presidency on a foolish dalliance and arrogantly trying to fix it himself for lying about it and sending others out to lie for him, for paralyzing his policy agenda and making his accusers look like prophets instead of fools."

With the exception, however, of a biting picture of Morris (who is depicted as an egomaniacal buffoon, "the dark buddha whose belly Clinton rubbed in desperate times"), "All Too Human" is fueled less by any score-settling agenda than by an insider's preoccupation with process and a natural storyteller's fondness for vivid characters and anecdotes.

Stephanopoulos describes Ross Perot as "the weird little man who was a ventriloquist's dummy for voter anger." Senator Robert Byrd as "an elegant, elderly popinjay," the former New York governor, Mario Cuomo, as a Hamlet who could not make up his mind whether he would accept a Supreme Court appointment, and Vice President Al Gore as "the only person inside the White House who could really poke fun at the president."

Of Hillary Rodham Clinton, Stephanopoulos says that she, like her health care plan, "was ambitious, idealistic and highly logical" but also "inflexible, overly complex and highly susceptible to misinterpretation." "Her often brittle exterior," he adds, "masks a more vulnerable core," while the president "looks soft" but is cushioned by his "accommodating nature."

At the same time, he suggests, Mrs. Clinton exercised a formidable hold over her husband. He depicts Clinton as agreeing in December 1993 that the White House should cooperate with reporters and turn over Whitewater documents until he thought of how his wife, Hillary, would react. "Saying her name flipped a switch in his head," Stephanopoulos writes. "Suddenly, his eyes lit up and two years' worth of venom spewed out of his mouth. You could usually tell when Clinton was making Hillary's argument: even if he was yelling, his voice had a flat quality, as if he were a high school debater speeding

through a series of memorized facts." On the matter of Whitewater, he adds: "Clinton wasn't commander in chief, just a husband beholden to his wife. Hillary was always the first to burst into his bimbo eruptions; now he had to do the same for her."

As for Stephanopoulos's relationship with Clinton, he writes that he had become a "true true believer" during the 1992 campaign and, in retrospect, "an enabler" who wanted Clinton to see him "as his defender, not his interrogator."

"A dynamite had already started," he writes of the fallout from the Gennifer Flowers episode, "that would repeat itself many times in the years ahead — one explained well by Reinhold Niebuhr. 'Frantic orthodoxy,' he wrote, 'is never rooted in faith but in doubt. It is when we are not sure that we are doubly sure.' I now had doubts about Clinton, had seen his flaws up close, which caused me to focus even more intently on his strengths and believe even more fervently in his ideas."

How can Stephanopoulos reconcile his willingness at the time to spin the Gennifer Flowers story with his current anger over the Monica Lewinsky affair? Senator Robert Byrd as "an elegant, elderly popinjay," the former New York governor, Mario Cuomo, as a Hamlet who could not make up his mind whether he would accept a Supreme Court appointment, and Vice President Al Gore as "the only person inside the White House who could really poke fun at the president."

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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

EVERY player has, on occasion, the following feeling: "Whatever I do now will be wrong." Sometimes this is true and any play will help the opposition. Sometimes it is not quite true, but the escape route is hard to find.

Put yourself in West's position on the diagrammed deal. He opened in third position with one no-trump, the weak variety showing 12 to 14 points. This seemed about to produce a two-heart contract, following a transfer response, but South came to life with a surprising balancing bid of two spades.

This was decidedly risky, but it is not unusual to bid a

four-card suit in such situations. Partner will know that a five-card suit would probably have been bid on the previous round, and can continue if he has a missfit. As it was, the two-spade bid struck gold and North raised to game.

West examined his lead choices against four spades with distaste. A spade lead and a diamond lead were both quite likely to cost a trick, although as it happens either would have been entirely safe. A club lead was more attractive, but would have given South some help. He would have been able to discard a heart from dummy on the second round of clubs, and would have then needed a winning heart guess to make his game.

North-South scored 10.5 match points out of a possible

12, and the two pairs ended with identical totals to share the title.

WEST
K7
Q3
K12
K10K43
SOUTH
A543
K18
A9K84
AQ

North-South vulnerable. The bidding:

WEST
K7
Q3
K12
K10K43
SOUTH
A543
K18
A9K84
AQ

KIDS

Virtual-Reality Thrills in Japan

Urban Theme Parks Provide Interactive Fun With 3-D Technology

By Miki Tanikawa

OKYO — You and seven other people board the state-of-the-art submarine, and depart for a ride to an underwater colony, only to find the city severely damaged by some underwater creature. Suddenly a giant octopus overtake the ship, violently shaking it with its muscular arms, and it is up to you and your colleagues to shoot down the monster with the electric gun at your command.

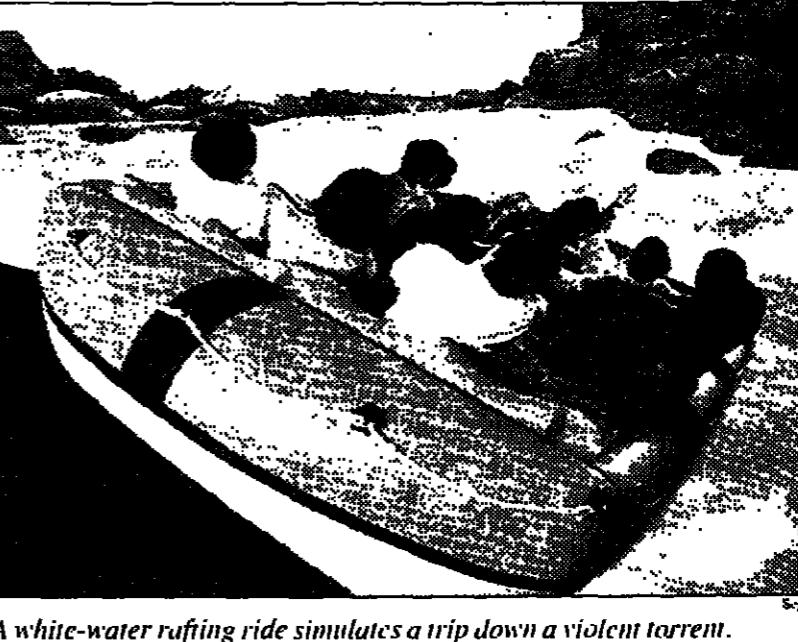
Demands for better computer games and funky theme parks that can make efficient use of limited space in Japanese cities have spawned a new breed of amusement facilities known as urban-type theme parks, where scenes from science fiction movies are played out in interactive, virtual-reality attractions. These indoor amusement parks, like Sega's Tokyo Joypolis, are full of 3-D-type adventures that appeal to people of all ages.

The fascination with the rides, people say, is that they are much more sophisticated and interactive than arcade games and much less expensive, less vulnerable to weather and easier to travel to than regular theme parks, which are usually far removed from large cities.

The 3-D reality is perhaps best portrayed at the Crypt, where two people board 3-D glasses and headsets. The courageous couple sneak into an underground hallway of an ancient castle in search of a hidden treasure, only to encounter the creepy inhabitants instead. In this virtual-reality attraction, images are projected from five different screens — left, right, front, behind and beneath. As the advancing monster breaks past you, you can see him marching down the hall as you turn around, the effect of the all-direction image projection.

Horrors are a well-known theme, and at the Murder Lodge, another spooky attraction, special sound effects are fully exploited to give the guests maximum chills. Visitors wearing headsets are welcomed into a snowy mountain cabin with a table prepared for dinner. Except for some vibrations on the walls and the shaking of the seats, the horror story of the guests being murdered unfolds by sound. The host dropping dishes to the floor and his attempts to restore light by striking matches, and the killer banging on the door are all well done from the acoustic angle.

The attraction has become famously



A white-water rafting ride simulates a trip down a violent torrent.

tance, at times running at a blistering speed, when in reality you will have moved only 38 meters during the three-minute trip.

Half-Pipe Canyon, a joy ride that mimics a skateboarder's experience, is one of the few nonvirtual attractions at Joypolis, but it has enough high-tech features to lure thrill seekers. Two people step onto a board and strap themselves to a pole. The board moves up and down a U-shaped track like a skateboarder making his way up and down the hill. The board spins around and swings up and down the track.

The players receive a score based on the number of turns they make and the speed they achieve, which is controlled by an accelerator at their feet.

HORROR JET COASTER

In a new attraction that combines movement with computer images, the Horror Ride is described by Sega officials as a "horror-type jet coaster." It takes players on a tour around a cemetery in a truck on tracks. The enclosed car has an internal screen that serves as a window. The host dropping dishes to the floor and his attempts to restore light by striking matches, and the killer banging on the door are all well done from the acoustic angle.

Along the way, riders encounter a variety of obstacles, such as zombies that jump in and attempt to destroy the tracks or push the car down a steep hill and into an endless fall. The images tell you that you are traveling a great distance.

At Tokyo Joypolis, an all-you-can-ride pass costs 3,800 yen (about \$33). Tel: 813-5500-1801. On the Web: <http://www.sega.co.jp>

Shinjuku Joypolis: 813-5361-3040

Umeda Joypolis, in Osaka: 816-6366-3647

Some of the rides at Tokyo Joypolis, including Aqua Nova, the 3-D sea tour with the octopus, have a version in English for groups of at least three people.

Miki Tanikawa is a journalist based in Tokyo.

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

NATIONAL GALLERY, tel: (171) 747-2885, open daily. To July 4: "Rogier van der Weyden." A small exhibition celebrating the sixth centenary of the birth of the Dutch painter (1399-1464). Of the 20 or so surviving paintings that are attributed to van der Weyden, five are displayed here, together with fragments of altar panels.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

FRANCE

FONDATION DINA VIERNY — MUSEE MAILLOL, tel: 01-42-22-59-59, closed Tuesdays and holidays. To June 13: "Vierge da Silva." A selection of paintings and works on paper — often semi-abstract architectural compositions — by the Portuguese-born artist (1908-1952).

INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE, tel: 01-40-33-38-38, closed Mondays. Continuing To April 30: "Liban. L'Autre Rive." On loan from the National Museum in Beirut, art works that document the history of the country, together with recent finds from archaeological digs in the capital, Baalbek, Tyre and Sidon.

www.institutdumondearabe.fr

MONA BISMARCK FOUNDATION, tel: 01-47-23-38-88, closed Sundays and Mondays. To May 8: "Peinture Mexicaine Moderne et Contemporaine." From the collection of Jacques and Natasha Gelman, works by Kahlo, Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros and Tamayo, as well as works by lesser-known 20th-century Mexican artists.

www.mbf.org

GERMANY

NATIONAL GALLERY, tel: (30) 266-2662, closed Mondays. To May 30: "Max-Ernst-Retrospektive." Paintings, sculptures

INTERNATIONAL

Hindu Attacks Against Christians Are on the Rise in India

By Celia W. Dugger
New York Times Service

BHUBANESWAR, India — Less than two months after a Hindu mob murdered a Christian missionary from Australia and his two young sons in the eastern state of Orissa, Hindus and Christian villagers have clashed, and 157 of the 250 Christian homes were burned down, state officials said Thursday.

Thirteen people were injured in the incidents Wednesday, three of them by country-made guns.

Police have arrested 29 people. State officials said they presume Hindus set the fires but do not have solid evidence yet of who is guilty. Christian villagers interviewed by television reporters blamed Hindus, who they said shouted "Victory to Lord Ram," the Hindu god,

as they set the fires. The extent of the destruction only emerged Thursday as leaders of the state government and the state police visited the village of Ranaili in southern Orissa. Officials said tensions developed between Christian and Hindu villagers after someone painted a trident, symbol of Lord Shiva, over a Christian cross on a boulder about a mile outside the village.

The violence is part of a growing number of attacks on Christians in India over the past year. Church officials and opposition political parties say the problem has worsened since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party became the head of a national coalition government a year ago. Janata leaders say they oppose the violence.

It is not clear who is responsible for the violence in Orissa, which is ruled by

the Congress (I) Party. J.B. Patnaik, the chief minister of the state, resigned after the gruesome murders of the missionary, Graham Staines, and his sons, Timothy, 10, and Philip, 6. Mr. Patnaik said he took responsibility for the crime that had happened on his watch.

Even as the fires burned in the village of Ranaili on Wednesday, D. P. Wadhwa, the Indian Supreme Court Justice who was named to head a special inquiry into the Staines murders, harshly criticized the central government for failing to provide resources to investigate the crime. The commission of inquiry, which was constituted six weeks ago, is scheduled to issue its finding in two weeks but has yet to field a team of independent investigators or to be given functional offices.

"His Lordship has serious concerns

over the lapses of the government and its apathetic attitude towards the urgent requirements of the commission," D.G.R. Patnaik, secretary to the commission, said Thursday. "He has given them an ultimatum of one week to deliver."

A.N. Sharma, a spokesman for the Home Ministry in New Delhi, declined to comment on the judge's demand for staff and offices. The cabinet of the national government appointed Mr. Wadhwa to head the commission of inquiry just days after the Staines' murder Jan. 23.

The state police attributed the killings to a mob that they said was led by a man from the Bajrang Dal, a Hindu nationalist youth group that belongs to the same family of Hindu nationalist organizations such as the Janata Party.

Leaders of the Bajrang Dal denied involvement, and said the violence was a

backlash against the Christians' deceitful efforts to convert impoverished, illiterate Indians. L.K. Advani, home minister of the national government and a leader of the Janata Party, said within days of the killings that the Bajrang Dal had not committed the crime — an exonerating that leaders of the opposition said was grossly premature.

More than 50 people were arrested for the murders. All but a half-dozen have been released for lack of evidence, Mr. Patnaik said. The police have refused to discuss their findings.

Indian government officials said there had been 238 registered attacks on Christians in the past 20 years, 60 of them in Orissa. The number of attacks on Christians in India rose to 86 last year from seven the year before, more than half of them in the western state of Gujarat.

BRIEFLY

Israel Plays Down A PLO Meeting

JERUSALEM — Israel shrugged off as insignificant a meeting on Thursday between foreign diplomats and Palestinian officials at the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Arab East Jerusalem.

The gathering appeared to fly in the face of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assertion that he had put an end to such meetings, which he viewed as a violation of peace deals.

Thousands of Iraqis Plan Pilgrimage

ARAR, Iraq — Thousands of Iraqis camped out in tents at the border post of Arar on Thursday, waiting to cross to Saudi Arabia to join the annual hajj pilgrimage.

Hundreds more took flights from Iraq and Libya, whose leaders were challenging international restrictions on their countries. (AP)

Orphanage Deaths Alleged in Egypt

CAIRO — Prosecutors in a province north of Cairo opened an investigation Thursday into allegations that an orphanage sold the organs of some of the children in its care, resulting in a number of deaths.

The allegations were made earlier this week by 10 Parliament members, who demanded that the state launch a probe. (AP)

Mexicans Arrest Fugitive Officer

MEXICO CITY — A fugitive dissident army officer who has publicly accused the armed forces of justice abuses has been arrested by military police, the Defense Ministry announced.

Lieutenant Colonel Hildegardo Bacilio Gomez, a 43-year-old army surgeon, was detained Wednesday in the main square of his hometown, the city of Pachuca in central Mexico. (AP)

Beijing Shuts Journal Amid Crackdown

By Michael Laris
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — In a further hardening of the Chinese government's stance on dissent, authorities have ordered *Way* magazine, one of the country's most lively forums for debate on political reform, to halt publication immediately, sources at the journal said Thursday.

The government has also decided to put Fang Jie, a former midlevel government official who made a bold call for freedom of the press and direct presidential elections, on trial soon on charges of illegal business practices. He has been in prison since July.

The moves come days before U.S. and European officials are set to decide whether to introduce a resolution condemning China at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Last year, the Clinton administration decided not to sponsor such a measure as a carrot to encourage Chinese leaders to improve their rights record.

But in the year since that decision was made, Chinese authorities have begun to crack down on dissidents who challenged the legitimacy of the Communist Party. Three key founders of the China Democracy Party were given prison terms of more than 11 years, and a number of other dissidents have been sent to prison or sentenced to "reform through labor."

Authorities have also tightened controls over the country's increasingly aggressive official media. Several publications around the country have been suspended or shut down for good. Despite the added restrictions, China's writers and publishers have continued to push the limits of what is acceptable. But many fear that the recent developments could mark the beginning of a new round of closures.

According to sources close to *Way*, which is called *Fangjia* in Chinese, the magazine was criticized at a meeting of censorship officials in January and told to stop publication. But editors argued that they had not been provided with an official written notification.

In an example of the ambiguity which often characterizes relations with the government, the magazine's staff was not blocked from continuing its normal operations for the next two months, and published its March issue as planned.

The magazine is considered a liberal voice in the academic debate on China's political future, and is widely read by scholars and government officials.

Last week, though, editors received a written order from the State Press and Publications Administration to cease publication, an indication that authorities had finally decided to enforce their decision. "They said that in recent years *Way* had been writing too much about social science and too little about natural science, and that there was a discrepancy with our original stated purpose," an editor said.

All publications in China must be registered with the government. Way emphasized its interest in the uncontroversial area of science when it registered. But its pages have contained impassioned calls for "freedom of thought," property rights, and the separation of Communist Party and government functions.

Editors say they plan to refashion the magazine with less emphasis on politics and will seek permission to publish again. The decision to put Fang Jie on trial, which was revealed by Human Rights in China, has also sent a chill through political reform circles here. Mr. Fang, a businessman and former deputy director of the planning commission in the coastal city of Fuzhou, distributed an essay in 1997 calling for radical political reform.



A French soldier in Macedonia guarding a mortar unit Thursday in a position near the Kosovo border. (AP)

KOSOVO: Wednesday Shapes Up as Deadline for Serbs

Continued from Page 1

are in violation of pledges Mr. Milosevic made last fall to withdraw most of these forces and stop attacks that have driven more than 200,000 civilians from their homes over the last year.

Troop positions, other Serb military targets, and all of Serbia's sophisticated air defense system could come under attack by 400 American and European planes, including U.S. B-52 bombers with cruise missiles, as early as next week, the allies insist, unless Mr. Milosevic decides to accept the peace plan and 28,000 allied-led peacekeepers to enforce it.

General Wesley Clark, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's top military commander, said Thursday after visiting NATO troops already gathering in Macedonia. "There should be no doubt in the minds of the Serb military and police leaders that should NATO act, their military and police forces would be devastated."

"If the decision is made, NATO military forces are prepared to act," General Clark said.

Russia, which is a co-sponsor of the talks here along with the United States, France, Britain, Germany, and Italy, opposes the use of military force against the Serbs but appealed to them Thursday to settle peacefully.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov huddled by telephone from Moscow with Mr. Cook and Mr. Vedrine, who returned to Paris on Thursday night, and with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington.

[Mrs. Albright, accusing the Serbs of "going backwards" in the Kosovo negotiations, told Mr. Milosevic on Thursday that NATO was ready to act against his forces, Reuters reported from Washington. "I would like to remind President Milosevic that NATO stands ready to take whatever measures are necessary," she said before addressing congressional leaders on the situation in Kosovo.]

Mr. Ivanov appealed to the Serb leadership to let Serb delegates here sign what Mr. Ivanov called "the political document put forward by the working group." European, American and Russian mediators at the talks worked out the 81-page agreement that the Albanians finally signed Thursday evening, but the Russian mediator, Boris Mayorsky, was the only mediator who did not also sign as a witness.

Earlier Thursday, the mediators met with the Serb delegation again, but Philip Reeker, the chief spokesman of the talks, said that there had been no change in the Serb position. The Serbs left the talks before the Albanian signing ceremony. Serb and ethnic Albanian delegates are not known to have actually talked with each other since the negotiations reconvened Monday after a two-week break to give the Albanians time to consult with field commanders about an agreement settling for autonomy instead of the independence they had been fighting for.

Christopher Hill, the American negotiator for the six sponsoring "contact group" countries, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, said Wednesday that the Serbs had demanded unacceptable changes to the autonomy agreement, refusing even to discuss military and police measures to make it work.

According to the Russian news agency Itar-Tass, Mr. Ivanov said, "We urged our Belgrade colleagues to show the most constructive approach, taking into account the fact that the Albanian side has already consented to sign the document. Without it, it is impossible to discuss any forms of implementation."

The top Serbian official at the talks here is Milan Milutinovic, the president of Serbia, which under the peace agreement would remain sovereign over Kosovo for the next three years, although the Albanians would have home rule, their own legal, educational, and administrative organizations, and an Albanian police force.

Political observers were mostly struck by the audacity of Mr. Skuratov's surprise announcement, which ended six weeks of studied silence. His original resignation, made on Feb. 1, was never fully explained. No one believed that he was quitting for health reasons.

Yeltsin Leaves Hospital

President Yeltsin left a hospital on Thursday after more than two weeks of treatment for a stomach ulcer and moved to a state residence outside Moscow, Reuters reported.

A Kremlin spokesman said, "The president has moved to his Gorky-9 residence."

Mr. Yeltsin, 68, was admitted to Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital for a second round of treatment on Feb. 27 after his ulcer, first diagnosed in January, failed to heal fully.

Mr. Yeltsin spoke clearly and looked relatively well in television footage this week when he met Mr. Primakov at the hospital.

GOETHE: Poet's Corpse Secretly Exhumed

Continued from Page 1

the devil, has lain since his death in 1832 in a crypt that also contains the corpse of the great poet and playwright Friedrich Schiller, who died in 1805. It was widely believed until now that the repose of the poets, who both lived in Weimar, had been uninterrupted.

Even by the standards of an East German state that doctored its athletes and was a master of cloak-and-dagger spy operations, the nocturnal removal of Goethe's body from its tomb and subsequent treatment with various chemicals appears outlandish.

Goethe, like Martin Luther and the Prussian King Frederick II, was among the great figures of German history that the former East German state used to buttress the patriotism of its citizens and its claims to represent the true Germany beside a "decadent" West Germany.

The tombs of all three men lie in what was East Germany.

The revelation comes at a sensitive time. Weimar has just embarked on a series of celebrations and performances to mark the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth and the city's selection by European Union culture ministers as Europe's "cultural capital" for 1999. It is the first city of the former Soviet bloc to be honored in this way.

The report made public Friday said that seven people, including the former rector of Jena University and a director of the Museum of Early History in Weimar, carried out the work on Goethe's corpse.

They loaded his body onto a cart as night fell on Nov. 2, 1970, and pulled the contraption the short distance to the Goethe museum.

None of the people involved in the operation could be reached for comment on Thursday. It was unclear how many of them, if any, are still alive. But Weimar officials were emphatic in confirming that the exhumation did take place.

They said the report, which had been kept in the anatomy department of the



FORGET ME NOT — Florence Forget of Attleboro, Massachusetts, holding a postcard she received on Monday and that was mailed to her from Florida 47 years ago.

BALLOON: Tired British-Swiss Team Gets Green Light to Start Across Atlantic Ocean

Continued from Page 1

replied: "That is what we are all here for. O.K., you are on your way across the Atlantic."

On Wednesday, the balloon's 18th day aloft, the pilots complained of exhaustion and worried that the propane used in the balloon's burners might run out before the craft reached the finish line.

Mr. Piccard and Mr. Jones stand to win a \$1 million prize and a cup from the beer maker Anheuser-Busch. Two years ago the company offered the prize and a trophy, the Budweiser Cup, to the first balloonist to circle the world nonstop.

Gregory Hendricks, a Budweiser spokesman, said this week that the challenge remained in effect, and added: "We're wishing good luck to the Breitling crew."

The Breitling balloon faced staggering problems to get this far. Besides the vagaries of wind direction and speed, there were storms to avoid and regions of

dead air where the balloon might have become marooned until fuel ran out.

There were many technical problems, including the accumulation of ice on the propane burners. Worst of all, some of the nations along the round-the-world track did not open their airspace to the balloon and had to be avoided. China gave last-minute permission, but only on condition that the balloon remain south of the 26th parallel, which is north of Hong Kong but well south of Shanghai.

Sometimes the balloon crawled at 20 miles an hour, but in stretches where the crew could exploit jet streams, the Breitling sped at more than 100 miles an hour. On two occasions, prompted partly by the need to scrape ice off burners and partly to escape the bad-smelling air inside the crew capsule, the balloonists ventured outside their pressurized crew compartment into the thin, frigid air above, 20,000 feet.

■ Heading for Finish Line

The team meteorologist, Luc Trullmans, said Thursday that the balloonists would try to cross the "finish line" over Manaus on Saturday at around 1700 GMT, Reuters reported.

Mr. Noble, the flight director, said: "No doubt they have the will and the spirit to go on. Let's hope and pray they have a safe landing in North Africa."

No decision had been made on a landing site, but a spokesman, Gerard Sennier, said the balloon might head south to try to land in Mali where conditions were expected to be better. The balloon, traveling at 100 kilometers (60 miles) per hour, was to climb into the jetstream and cross the Atlantic at speeds of about 135 kilometers per hour.

The balloonists will try to avoid landing in Algeria or Libya, where they are uncertain of the political climate. A ditching at sea has not been ruled out.

The wreath was then reattached to Goethe's skull, a cranium that had contained up some of the greatest literary works known to man but was found by the scientists to contain only "a dust-like mass."

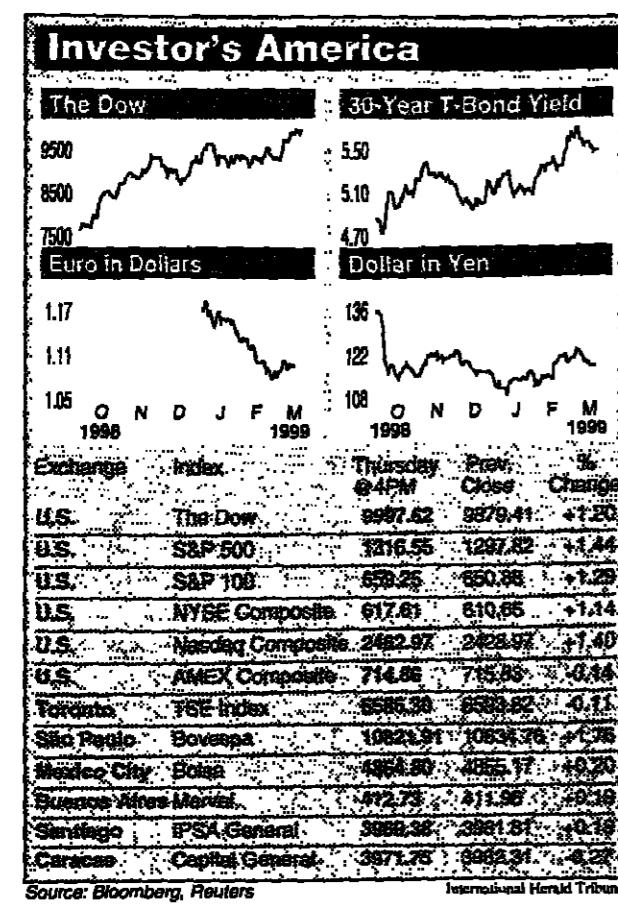
The report said that the poet's skull

was 166.5 centimeters (5 ft 5 1/2 inches) long, giving him a probable living height of 169 centimeters, about average for his time.

One other alteration was made to

Goethe's remains, according to the report. His shroud was removed and sent to Berlin, then the East German capital, for exhumation. But because it did not return in time to be reburied along with Goethe's corpse, it was kept hidden.

The report makes clear that the scientists considered preserving Goethe's remains in a glass coffin, like Lenin's, but later abandoned the idea as impractical, before carting the corpse back to its tomb by night.



Fed Up With Exchange Fees, Cuba Will Switch to the Euro

By Serge F. Kovaleski
Washington Post Service

HAVANA — The U.S. dollar, for President Fidel Castro, is a wretched symbol of Yankee capitalism and western decadence. Nonetheless, the dictator reluctantly legalized the currency five years ago to build tourism and accommodate the heavy flow of remittances to this communist island from Cuban-Americans in the United States.

Now, however, Cuba is preparing to embrace an alternative to the dollar: the euro. Cuba plans to start using the common currency as of July 1 in transactions with the 11 European Union nations that adopted it at the beginning of this year. The Cuban newspaper Juventud Rebelde, the official publication of the Union of Communist Youth, recently said that the country's state-run companies should also prepare to pay in euros for trade operations with other communist countries beginning in January.

Because of the United States' long-standing economic embargo against Cuba, it is restricted from using the U.S. dollar when

trading with other countries. Consequently, the Castro government has had to pay large commissions charged by financial institutions to change dollars into other foreign currencies and vice versa as it moves to broaden its commercial ties around the world.

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The euro is scheduled to start circulating in Europe as actual bills and coins in three years, at which time, Cuba says, it will introduce the money on this Caribbean island — probably starting in its tourism industry.

Cuba officials said that at this stage it is unclear to what extent the dollar's dominant role in Cuba's economy could be diminished. One high-ranking Central Committee official said it was unlikely the dollar would ever be phased out because its use is needed for the remittances, which total about \$300 million a year and make up Cuba's second-largest source of hard currency.

For now, the Cuban government is counting on the euro to help it further circumvent the embargo and ease an economic crisis by strengthening the island's commercial deal-

ings with Europe, the largest single generator of trade, visitors and credit to Cuba.

Cuba's economic ties to Europe have been critical for this nation, which lost 85 percent of its markets with the unraveling of the Soviet bloc. Furthermore, Cuba is not a member of the International Monetary Fund nor the World Bank and has had difficulty obtaining credit largely because it has repeatedly defaulted on its foreign debt.

The president of the Central Bank of Cuba, Francisco Soberon, has been cautious in speculating about the extent to which use of the euro can better the country's economic problems.

"More than anything else, it means prospects for improving the present situation," Mr. Soberon said at a recent conference on the euro in this capital.

U.S. Inflation Report Bolsters Market

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks soared Thursday in a late rally after a report showed U.S. inflation remains tame as the economy grows.

The economic numbers are building a platform from which the bulls can spring," said Robert Stovall, a manager at Stoval/Twenty-First Advisors Inc. "We'll probably have another run at 10,000 next week."

The Dow Jones industrial average staged another charge toward the 10,000 level but closed short of that mark at 9,997.62, up 1,182.21 points.

Broader stock indicators were also higher, with the Standard & Poor's 500 index up 17.83 points at 1,316.55, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index up 33.99 at 2,462.96.

Stocks advanced after the Labor Department reported consumer prices rose

0.1 percent last month, a signal that inflation is under control and that the Federal Reserve Board will probably not raise interest rates.

The consumer price report lifted

U.S. STOCKS

prices in the bond market, where the 30-year Treasury bond rose 7/32 point to 96 15/32, taking its yield to 5.49 percent from 5.50 percent Wednesday.

"The fundamentals of the market remain solid," said John Shaughnessy, chief investment strategist at Avest Inc. "Inflation is benign, the economy is in good shape, profits will start to pick up this quarter."

Dow components were also led higher by financial-services stocks, which reacted bullishly to a report that Chase Manhattan was looking for a merger

partner. Chase shares rose 5/8 at 83 1/2. American Express lead the Dow higher and was up 4 1/16 at 125 1/16.

Citigroup rose 1 1/4 to 64 1/4 and J.P. Morgan rose 2/8 to 123 1/4.

America Online climbed 7 9/16 to 116 1/4 and was the most active share in U.S. trading after a Goldman, Sachs & Co. analyst raised his 1999 earnings estimate for the on-line service.

CMGI rose 9 7/16 to 184 13/16, after the company announced a 2-for-1 stock split late Wednesday. CMGI, a 20-percent shareholder in Lycos and the leading opponent to the proposed takeover of Lycos by USA Networks, said it would put the plan to a shareholder vote instead of proposing an alternative transaction.

Microsoft rose 5 5/16 at 172 7/16 after the software maker unveiled its Internet Explorer 5 and said it had won wide industry support. (AP, Bloomberg)

TRADE: Record U.S. Deficit

Continued from Page 1

bond prices higher on Wall Street.

In addition to the loss of markets for U.S. exporters, the plunge in currency values and recessions overseas triggered a flood of products into the United States, which has continued to post strong economic growth despite the global troubles.

That growth has sent U.S. unemployment to its lowest level in three decades despite the fact that manufacturing has eliminated 337,000 jobs over the past year.

In a separate report, the Labor Department said the exceptionally good labor conditions were continuing, with the number of Americans filing first-time applications for unemployment benefits holding under 300,000 for the seventh consecutive week — the longest such streak since 1974. Claims last week were 298,000, up 6,000 from the previous week.

While the ailing economies of Asia reduced orders to the nation's factories, U.S. consumer spending advanced at the fastest clip in 14 years in 1998, and much of that demand was met by imported products.

For goods trade alone, the January deficit of \$22.3 billion was the largest on record. For goods and services trade combined, the shortfall was the largest since January 1992.

The euro was also heavy after rumors made rounds that the ECB is looking to sell euros, said Hugh Walsh, a trader at Commerzbank in New York.

In other trading, the pound slipped to \$1.6297 from \$1.6305 Wednesday. The U.S. currency rose to 1.4577 Swiss francs from 1.4514 francs.

(Bloomberg, Bridge News)

Rising U.S. Trade Deficit Undermines Dollar

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar fell against the yen Thursday after a release of figures showing that the U.S. trade deficit had widened more than expected in January.

"We're expecting the trade deficit to get bigger and bigger," said Jeffrey Yu, a trader at Sanwa Bank. "That could be negative for the dollar."

The trade deficit expanded to \$17 billion in January from a revised \$14.1 billion in December.

Bob Lynch, a currency strategist at Paribas, predicted the trade gap would drive the dollar down against the yen and euro by the end of the year. "The trade deficit is going to become more and more

of a problem for the dollar," he said.

With a weaker dollar, imported goods — which have swelled the trade deficit — become more expensive in the United

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

States. The report also triggered expectations for a lower growth.

"The trade figure was weaker than expected, exports down and imports up, and trade will take a substantial chunk out of GDP for the first quarter," said Mary Dennis, an economist at Merrill Lynch.

In 4 P.M. New York trading, the dollar fell to 117.575 yen from 118.170 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0972 from \$1.0998.

as the outlook for Germany, Europe's largest economy, worsened after the European Central Bank held off cutting its key interest rate.

The Ifo research institute's index of West German business confidence declined for a ninth month to 89.8 in February from 91.1 in January and was at its weakest level since July 1996.

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(Bloomberg, Bridge News)

BANK: Deutsche Raises Funds

Continued from Page 11

become a major player in the euro bloc, nor has he concealed his frustration that Paribas has protected French banks from foreign buyers.

For now, the German bank is resigned to expand in France through "organic" growth by setting up a modest network of 10 branches there that target high-income customers, the bank said. But in the future, Mr. Breuer added, Deutsche Bank was prepared to act if the French market presented an opportunity.

Deutsche Bank has no plans for "massive" expansion in Italy or Spain, the bank said. But in Italy, the third-biggest economy in the euro bloc, Mr. Breuer said that Deutsche Bank would actively monitor the banking landscape.

Mr. Breuer's comments came as Deutsche Bank reported a tripling of its earnings for 1998. The bank said net income rose to 3.38 billion Deutsche marks from 1.02 billion marks in 1997.

Earnings were lifted by extraordinary gains from a special bonus dividend paid out by DaimlerChrysler AG last year. Deutsche Bank has a 12 percent stake in DaimlerChrysler.

INTEREST RATES

Thursday, March 18

Government Debt

3-month 6-month 1-year 2-year 5-year 10-year
Britain 1.54 2.08 4.75 4.90 5.42 6.27
France 2.94 2.28 3.25 3.37 3.85 4.22
Germany 2.99 2.88 3.24 3.37 3.85 4.22
Italy 3.07 3.00 3.52 3.65 4.12 4.50
Japan 3.90 3.90 4.25 4.35 4.82 5.15
Spain 2.90 2.90 3.45 3.55 4.02 4.45
United States 3-month 1-year 5-year 10-year
Yield 4.48 4.70 5.01 5.10 5.49 5.61
Price 4.38 4.46 100.01 100.27 100.40 100.46

Stock Indexes

SP COMP INDEX (KOSPI)
Korea 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000
SE 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000
SGX 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000
TAI 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000
TSE 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000
TWSE 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000
YOK 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000

Interest Rates

U.S. dollar per billion lbs - lots of 1,000 bales
Apr 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
May 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jun 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jul 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Aug 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Sep 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Oct 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Nov 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Dec 99 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jan 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Feb 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Mar 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Apr 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
May 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jun 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jul 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
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Dec 00 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jan 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Feb 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Mar 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Apr 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
May 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jun 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Jul 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Aug 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Sep 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Oct 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Nov 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425
Dec 01 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1.425 1

EUROPE

Gucci Rushes Out Latest Takeover Defense: Profit Partners Fail To Agree on Airbus DealBy John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

ROME — Gucci Group NV, on Thursday released figures for its latest financial year showing an 11 percent increase in net income, to \$195 million, that it rubbed under the nose of LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA, the French luxury goods maker that is seeking to take it over.

The partial figures were hastily released on the day LVMH said its operating profit slumped 29 percent last year, dragged down by the Asian crisis. In the second half, pretax profit fell 48 percent. But LVMH said it expected a rebound this year. Gucci, the Italian fashion

house, made the disclosure on the eve of meetings with executives of LVMH aimed at hammering out a solution to their wrangling.

Investors rewarded Gucci, pushing its share price up 4.50 euros (\$4.93) to 63.90 euros.

By contrast, LVMH said that operating earnings dropped to 525 million euros, as shrinking numbers of Japanese tourists cut into sales. Roughly 70 percent of LVMH's revenues stem from sales in Asia and from sales to Asian tourists who buy LVMH products such as Louis Vuitton bags and Givenchy perfumes on European tours or at airports.

But LVMH said it expected profit to improve 15 percent this year, as

the slump in Asian demand for luxury products with European names bottoms out. That news buoyed LVMH's share price by 10.7 euros, to 231.20 euros.

Gucci's wrangling with LVMH began last month when Gucci produced a poison pill by issuing shares to an employee pension fund that diluted LVMH's share in Gucci to 25 percent from 34.4 percent. LVMH filed a suit in Amsterdam, where Gucci is registered, to block the plan, but the court suspended the voting rights of both LVMH and the Gucci fund pending a ruling in April. Meanwhile, executives from the two companies are meeting Friday to try to reach an out-of-court settlement.

Domenico De Sole, Gucci's chief executive, fired a parting shot before the talks, inviting investors and analysts to "compare our excellent results with the 1998 results that LVMH published today."

Bernard Arnault, LVMH's chairman, showed his feisty side, saying there was "no question of today launching a takeover bid" for Gucci, which he described as "risky."

Mr. Arnault attributed LVMH's overall bad results to losses at the DFS Group Ltd., a duty-free operator acquired in 1997 that posted a loss of \$37 million in 1998. Without those losses, he said, LVMH would have had a 6 percent increase in operating profit.

Nedlloyd to Sell Distribution Unit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AMSTERDAM — Nedlloyd Group NV said Thursday it had agreed to sell its European parcels and distribution unit to Deutsche Post AG and Danzas Group for 533 million euros (\$586 million).

The company said it would consider buying back its own shares when it decides how to use the proceeds. The group's capital gain on the transaction is expected to come to about 272 million euros.

The sale was welcomed by the market because it will allow the company to focus on container shipping. Nedlloyd surged 7 euros to close at 19 euros in Amsterdam.

Nedlloyd also said Thursday it had posted a net loss on ordinary operations of 2.3 million euros in 1998, up from 54 million euros in 1997, when the European Commission required it to restate its results, slashing its profit.

Revenue from banking activities fell 4.7 percent, but that was a result of the sales of a number of subsidiaries, one of the conditions, along with the privatization, set by the European Commission for

approving a state bailout of the bank.

Credit Lyonnais said that its net profit a little more than tripled in 1998, its last full year of operation as a state-owned bank before its planned privatization in the middle of this year.

Separately, Credit Lyonnais confirmed a report in The Wall Street Journal that it was discussing an asset-management partnership with Mellon Bank Corp. of the United States, though it provided few details.

"We are having talks," said the chairman of Credit Lyonnais, Jean Peyrelade. "I don't know where our talks will go."

Jean-Baptiste Bellon, an analyst at Deutsche Bank AG, said a link with Mellon could eventually help Credit Lyonnais cut costs in asset management. "They try to outsource a lot of businesses, and this could be one of them," he said.

Net profit came to 165 million euros (\$181 million) in 1998, up from 54 million euros in 1997, when the European Commission required it to restate its results, slashing its profit.

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Credit Lyonnais said that barring any unexpected negative events, the bank's results for this year should be at least as good as those for 1998.

New provisions for bad loans totaled 1.3 billion euros, up from 1.2 billion euros the previous year, as the bank, which had been heavily exposed in Asia, last year moved to cover potential liabilities in Russia and other high-risk countries.

Credit Lyonnais had been expected to take large charges to clean up its balance sheet before its sale by the government to investors, said Philippe Ricarte, an analyst with KBC Securities France. "Now it's on a more solid base," he said.

The French government gave the green light Sunday for the privatization of the bank by the end of the second quarter, ending a six-year saga that has cost taxpayers around 150 billion francs (\$25 billion) as a result of mismanagement, property losses and alleged irregularities.

The government plans to sell one-third of the bank to "core" institutional investors, who will buy stakes of no more than 10 percent each, and to sell a further 50 percent in an initial public offering by June. Employees will be allowed to buy an additional 3 percent to 5 percent. (AFP, Bloomberg, Bridge News)

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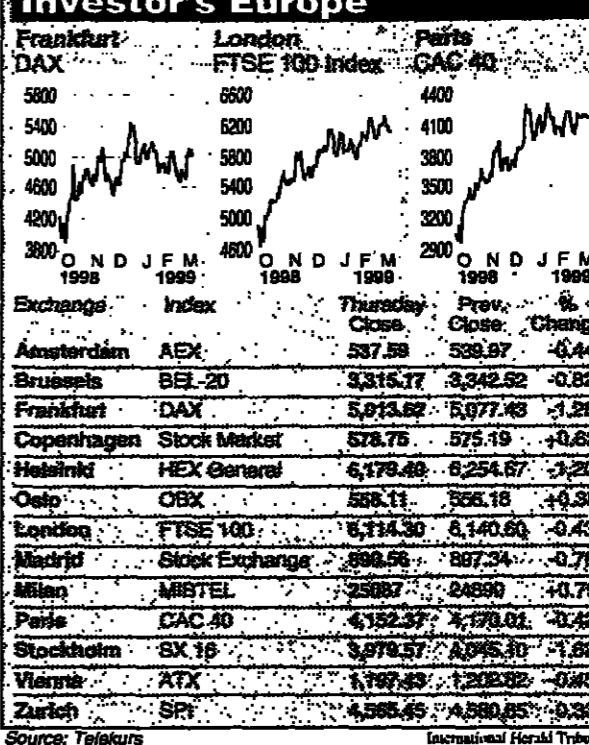
Airbus had planned to complete the transition from a loose partnership to a private company by January. But disagreements among its partners — Aerospatiale of France, DaimlerChrysler Aerospace AG of Germany, British Aerospace PLC and Construcciones Aeronauticas SA of Spain, known as CASA — over the value of their stakes in a unified company has delayed the move indefinitely.

"That is going to be a mighty negotiation before it is done," Ian Massey, financial controller of the consortium, said after addressing Wall Street analysts Wednesday in New York. "I don't have a sense of how it is going to play out."

Last year was the strongest for Airbus deliveries since its founding in 1970. The consortium delivered 229 airplanes, for a total of \$13.3 billion in revenue, a 26 percent increase over 1997. But while it is near its goal of splitting the market for new orders with its rival, Boeing Co., a price war has sliced into profit.

Mr. Massey said that unless it altered its structure, Airbus would have a harder time cutting its costs and building a proposed new 100-passenger jumbo jet.

Aerospatiale and DaimlerChrysler each own 37.9 percent of the consortium; British Aerospace owns 20 percent and CASA owns 4.2 percent. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe

Source: Teletext

International Herald Tribune

x 1000: x 1000

x 1000: x

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

Continued on Page 15

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NASDAQ

Thursday's 4 P.M.
1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

12 Month High Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s High	Low	100s Lkd	Chg
59/6	24/6	Phl Morris	1.76	4.3	19.76	46.2	3896	+11
28/6	15/6	PhlBld	—	—	41.00	354	424	+16
52/4	35/4	PhlBld	—	—	812	678	784	+76
52/4	42/4	PhlBld	—	—	481.0100	804	784	+19
17/4	13/4	PhlBld	1.57	10.9	145	145	134	+16
53/4	37/4	PhlBld	1.30	21	48	7527	444	+27
26/7	24/5	PhlBld PRC Ld	7.9	—	18	28	20	+10
15/5	5/5	PhlHld	1.55	2.4	82	54	50	+14
10/6	6/6	PhlHld	—	—	483	119	114	+16
27/6	26/6	PhlHld	2.20	2.3	20	10	10	+10
20/4	4/4	PhlPcr	1.28	4.8	17	34	34	+16
16/4	16/4	PhlPcr	—	—	541	241	346	+16
10/4	8/4	PhlPcr	—	—	2945	241	247	+16
25/4	13/4	PhlPcr B	8.0	6.3	166	188	19	+16
52	18/4	PhlPcr	2.00	1.3	10	10	10	+16
35/4	24/4	PhlPcr	2.22	7.3	20	10	10	+16
14/5	12/5	PhlPcr	1.00	1.0	123	134	134	+16
49/4	49/4	PhlPcr B	8.0	7.1	13	847	356	+16
27/4	10/4	PhlPcr B	8.0	7.1	15	1519	373	+16
71/5	47/5	PhlPcr B	1.02	1.3	12	2073	574	+16
41/5	22/5	PhlPcr	1.0	—	678	226	226	+16
20/5	5/5	PhlPcr B	2.0	3.1	20	210	210	+16
99/5	1/5	PhlPcr	1.0	—	524	249	249	+16
33/5	17/5	PhlPcr	1.0	—	4217	249	249	+16
17/5	17/5	PhlPcr	1.0	—	618	174	174	+16
20/5	15/5	PhlPcr	1.0	—	2159	174	174	+16
15/5 15/5 PhlPcr B								
87/4	5/4	PhlPcr B	1.02	1.3	12	327	657	+16
87/4	11/4	PhlPcr	—	—	121	226	226	+16
28/4	11/4	PhlPcr	—	—	687	254	254	+16
17/4	16/4	PhlPcr	—	—	1494	254	254	+16
34/4	23/4	PhlPcr	2.28	8.9	18	1804	12	+16
35/4	8/4	PhlPcr	—	—	4567	12	12	+16
21/5	10/5	PhlPcr	—	—	976	304	304	+16
35/4	24/4	PhlPcr	—	—	581	219	219	+16
57/4	28/4	PhlPcr B	—	—	745	33	204	+16
31/4	15/4	PhlPcr	—	—	1344	33	204	+16
13/4	13/4	PhlPcr	—	—	340	74	74	+16
16/4	4/4	PhlPcr	4.46	1.3	15	119	74	+16
18/4	11/4	PhlPcr	5.00	2.4	20	267	406	+16
32/4	32/4	PhlPcr	2.80	2.0	16	1511	564	+16
42	35/4	PhlPcr	1.44	—	817	24	24	+16
27/4	3/4	PhlPcr	1.44	4.9	12	124	364	+16
27/4	2/4	PhlPcr	1.44	6.9	7	124	364	+16
26/4	2/4	PhlPcr	1.86	7.2	7	478	24	+16
61/4	44/4	PhlPcr	—	—	1040	370	370	+16
53/4	30/4	PhlPcr	2.40	1.2	15	349	24	+16
54/4	32/4	PhlPcr	2.40	1.2	15	717	119	+16
16/4	11/4	PhlPcr	2.80	2.4	20	268	24	+16
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27/4	3/4	PhlPcr	1.44	4.9	12	124	364	+16
27/4	2/4	PhlPcr	1.44	6.9	7	124	364	+16
26/4	2/4	PhlPcr	1.86	7.2	7	478	24	+16
61/4	44/4	PhlPcr	—	—	1040	370	370	+16
53/4	30/4	PhlPcr	2.40	1.2	15	349	24	+16
54/4	32/4	PhlPcr	2.40	1.2	15	717	119	+16
16/4	11/4	PhlPcr	2.80	2.4	20	268	24	+16
32/4	32/4	PhlPcr	2.80	2.4	20	1511	24	+16
42	35/4	PhlPcr	1.44	—	817	24	24	+16
27/4	3/4	PhlPcr	1.44	4.9	12	124	364	+16
27/4	2/4	PhlPcr	1.44	6.9	7	124	364	+16
26/4	2/4	PhlPcr	1.86	7.2	7	478	24	+16
61/4	44/4	PhlPcr	—	—	1040	370	370	+16
53/4	30/4	PhlPcr	2.40	1.2	15	349	24	+16
54/4	32/4	PhlPcr	2.40	1.2	15	717	119	+16
16/4	11/4	PhlPcr	2.80	2.4	20	268	24	+16
32/4	32/4</							

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Date	Time	Location	Event	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	L12	L13	L14	L15	L16	L17	L18	L19	L20	L21	L22	L23	L24	L25	L26	L27	L28	L29	L30	L31	L32	L33	L34	L35	L36	L37	L38	L39	L40	L41	L42	L43	L44	L45	L46	L47	L48	L49</
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Whether the hazards are hot-coffee spills or plant-floor dust, there are laptops built to withstand them.

Mobile computers represent the fastest-growing segment of the world's information-technology hardware market. Their large and growing popularity is partially attributable to better protection against accidents and adverse conditions now offered by "ruggedized" and "rugged" notebooks. The amount of protection provided and who uses them constitute the main differences between them.

Rugged or ruggedized? Ruggedized notebooks are protected against coffee spills, drops from tabletops and the other mishaps endemic to the road warrior's life. Rugged notebooks are employed by professionals on assignment in factories, oil fields, toxic-waste sites and other environments where the notebooks are subjected to prolonged exposure to heat

and cold, shock and vibration, fluids and dust. A common definition is: "A ruggedized notebook will probably work after hot coffee has been spilled on its keyboard."

Rugged notebooks are much better able to survive these extreme conditions than ruggedized ones. The rugged notebooks' greater capacity to function under stress is achieved by adding more sheathing, seals and shock absorbers than are found in the ruggedized ones.

All this has its price, in terms of both weight and dollars and cents.

Rugged notebooks weigh and cost up to three times as much as ruggedized ones, which, in turn, are slightly heavier and more expensive than standard models.

Virtually all of the rugged-

ized notebooks manufactured by Panasonic (Toughbook), Compaq (Armadillo), Toshiba (Portégé and Libretto) and other leading companies feature cases made of magnesium or magnesium alloys.

Magnesium is not only light, but is also strong, with about 20 times more resistance to shock and deformation than the ABS plastics forming the skeletons of standard notebooks.

Magnesium allows a Panasonic Toughbook, for instance, to survive unscathed a one-meter drop. Thanks to its great rates of heat dispersion, magnesium also serves as an air conditioner for notebooks.

Fragile components Disk and hard drives are the most fragile components in any mobile computer. All ruggedized and rugged notebooks use some form of

gel.

The second-most delicate component in a notebook is the screen.

Magnesium-based frame serves to shield the displays in most of the "hard-use" notebooks now available on the market.

Rubber, the best shield against water and moisture, is found in abundance in and on all of these notebooks. Rubber plugs seal ports, and rubber gaskets seal slots. For further protection, rugged notebooks are outfitted with rubber sheathing on the exterior.

Another easy-to-damage component in notebook is the keyboard. All of the ruggedized and rugged notebooks come with some form of plastic keyboard sheathing. The rugged's sheathing, is

however, generally "wrap-sealed" around the keyboard. In the ruggedized ones, the sheathing floats on the keyboard.

Heavy-duty models are manufactured by FieldWorks, MITAC and Itronix. These top-of-the-line models are used to gather, crunch and transmit data in places as diverse as ocean-floor diving

bells, high-altitude balloon cabins and the cockpits of supersonic jet fighters.

The FieldWorks FW5200 has a range of operation of between -15 and 45 degrees centigrade (5 and 113 degrees Fahrenheit). MITAC puts its products' range between -20 and 50 degrees centigrade (-4 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit).

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however, generally "wrap-sealed" around the keyboard. In the ruggedized ones, the sheathing floats on the keyboard.

Heavy-duty models are manufactured by FieldWorks, MITAC and Itronix. These top-of-the-line models are used to gather, crunch and transmit data in places as diverse as ocean-floor diving

bells, high-altitude balloon cabins and the cockpits of supersonic jet fighters.

The FieldWorks FW5200 has a range of operation of between -15 and 45 degrees centigrade (5 and 113 degrees Fahrenheit). MITAC puts its products' range between -20 and 50 degrees centigrade (-4 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit).

Terry Swartzberg

is the best shield against water and moisture, is found in abundance in and on all of these notebooks. Rubber plugs seal ports, and rubber gaskets seal slots. For further protection, rugged notebooks are outfitted with rubber sheathing on the exterior.

Another easy-to-damage component in notebook is the screen.

Magnesium-based frame serves

SPONSORED SECTION

THE DIGITAL WORKPLACE

NEW MOBILE PHONES ARE NOT JUST TALK

Using mobiles to access data may change the way we work.

According to Marie Wold, head of the European Telecommunications and Media Institute at Deloitte Consulting, "If the job will permit it, people will move out — the sky will replace fluorescent lighting and your office can be anywhere you want, even on the beach." She is talking about the Next Big Thing in telecommunications — being able to use mobile phones for e-mail, Internet access and other data-based functions in addition to ordinary calls.

At the moment, according to Ben Timmons, director of global market development at Cable & Wireless Mobile, less than 3 percent of all traffic on mobile networks is data, but he expects this to rise to more than 40 percent by 2005. He says that the widespread

adoption of mobile data use "will probably be the next big productivity increment. It could finally make the long-term goal of a paperless office possible and herald a future very different from how we work today."

Already, many companies in different countries have developed ingenious ways of exploiting the limited data capacity on existing digital mobile networks, which are known as second generation, analog being the first.

Saving time in the field
In Britain, for example, British Gas has reduced time spent by engineers in the field on duplicated effort and administrative and logistical tasks by harnessing the Vodafone network.

Engineers now receive assignments more quickly and are able to order parts automatically for customers while on site. Identifying faults is also easier. More than 80 percent of all jobs are now completed on the first visit, and more than 80,000 data calls are passed between the host system and field staff every day. Furthermore, paper work does not have to be re-entered into the central system, reducing the number of transcription errors, and jobs that can be billed are invoiced by the engineers on the spot.

Also in Britain, racing-car designer TWR has issued its design team phones that can connect laptops used for engine diagnostics to the Orange mobile-phone network. In this way, data from engine testing is fed straight into TWR's computer system for analysis on the spot, whether the engineer is in

*Racing-car designer TWR's engineers can feed diagnostic data via mobile phones into the company's computers.*

Sweden or in the pits. Workers are able to get on with their "real" work more quickly and report greater job satisfaction.

The staff of Speed, a Finnish freight company, uses the Nokia Communicator voice-and-data terminal connected to Sonera's mobile network to ensure quick response to customers requesting transport, both at home and abroad. The information passed out to staff is automatically entered onto the company's main computer for billing and administrative purposes, thereby reducing paperwork and effort.

Messaging services
In the Czech Republic, mobile operator RadioMobil has established the Paegas Info-serve service, which exploits the Short Message Service facility inherent in European digital networks. Subscribers

can access the Internet for information of their choice as well as the service's own content, including route planning, traffic news and postal-code information.

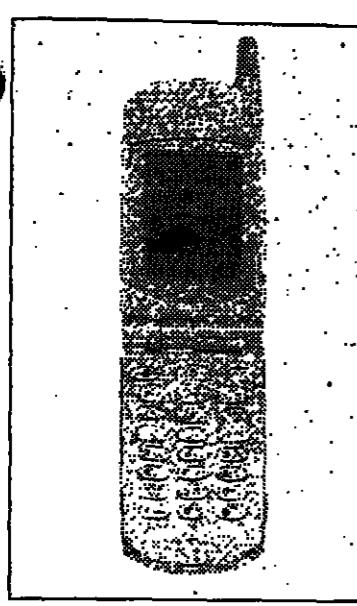
Most radical of all, in both scope and scale, is the Japanese mobile network operator NTT DoCoMo's i-mode service, launched last month. It is available to the general public, providing they buy a handset in the Digital Mova series, and offers an extraordinary wealth of services. DoCoMo teamed up with 67 organizations, ranging from banks and airlines to travel agents, to enable users to reserve airline and concert tickets, conduct transactions with banks, receive and send e-mail, and have Internet access wherever they are. They can also request that information on stock prices, the weather and many other subjects be sent to them regularly and automatically.

In addition to offering a high level of personal convenience, NTT DoCoMo's service will enable people to work and enjoy the facilities of "the virtual office" whenever they want and regardless of where they are in Japan.

There are signs that DoCoMo's lead will shortly be followed by a host of others. In February, British Telecom signed an agreement with Microsoft to develop wireless Internet and corporate data services outside the United States — the software giant is already working with U.S. mobile systems specialist Qualcomm to do the same in the United States.

In France, Alcatel has signed a big contract with alternative operator Cegetel to provide the means to access a range of on-line interactive services that should be commercially available later this year.

A.T.

*An "i-mode" phone by NTT DoCoMo.*

DON'T CALL IT CONFERENCING, CALL IT COLLABORATION

Video applications are being used for more than executive meetings.

Corporations are still using high-end videoconferencing systems for meetings between executives in far-flung places, but now other groups within organizations are beginning to use video collaboration tools. Along with the face-to-face video experience, applications such as document sharing, white boards and slide presentations are being used.

Working faster
Hoffmann-La Roche researchers, for example, use four videoconferencing systems to communicate with New Jersey colleagues, enabling the Swiss chemists to work with their U.S. colleagues to develop basic pharmaceutical compounds. They say that visual collaboration helps to bring compounds to market 24 to 36 months sooner than before.

Ford Motor Co. replaced its multiple CAD/CAM (computer-aided design and manufacturing) systems with a single platform that includes videoconferencing. It enables engineers to collaborate on car design and view models, for example, to ensure that all parts fit together correctly. Proponents at Ford say en-

gineers around the world are able to develop new car designs, such as the Monddeo, which was brought to market nine months earlier than it normally would have been using more traditional collaboration efforts.

Silicon Graphics has bundled camera and videoconferencing software with its workstations for years, and while design collaboration is one of the primary ways that the systems are used, videoconferencing is not a necessary part of the collaboration effort, says a spokesperson for the company.

Customer service
Financial service providers are discovering desktop, videoconferencing as a means of facilitating direct contact with remote financial experts, immediate processing of loan or credit applications and personalized customer service.

Crédit Suisse, for example, installed 80 mid-priced (\$1,300) desktop videoconferencing systems at car-leasing sites across Switzerland. Customers are able to complete the leasing transaction from proposal to contract

generation and loan authorization, at the same time they pick out the car.

Desktop systems
Smaller desktop systems and PC-based video communications systems are targeted for fast growth, but the total number of units sold is still relatively low. According to the latest report from the research company International Data Corp. (IDC), worldwide PC-camera shipments will increase from 606,000 in 1997 to 9.2 million in 2002, a compound annual growth of 72.3 percent.

U.S. market researcher Forward Concepts estimates that the PC category will represent about 28 percent of the videoconferencing equipment market in five years.

There are a large number of vendors entering the PC market, including European players such as ELSA and Teles of Germany and Madge Networks of the Netherlands. But the users of these PC systems are clearly early adopters. A broadband channel, faster than the one today's analog telephone lines offer, is needed for video communications, and ISDN (Integrated

Services Digital Network) or faster is still recommended for better quality video.

A new breed of videoconferencing and teleconferencing system integrators have emerged across Europe. After initially targeting multinationals, they are starting to package mid-priced solutions for mid-sized companies as the national markets develop. When training, consulting, implementation and installation are packaged together, the videoconference purchase is a less complex undertaking for smaller companies.

The PC-based applications

include personal videoconferencing, video e-mail and security surveillance plus consumer applications such as "nanny cams." PC-based videoconferencing is also being used by small and medium-sized businesses such as architectural firms, dental laboratories and advertising agencies. The use of videoconferencing saves valuable time by enabling customers to see products or projects-in-development without waiting or traveling.

Despite the growing interest, personal videoconferencing is an early-adopter market. Says Kevin Kane, an IDC analyst: "Video mail is viewed as merely a nice addition to e-mail, and acceptance continues to elude videoconferencing in both business and consumer markets."

Security systems are increasingly using videoconferencing technology. Experts say that continuous surveillance through videoconferencing eliminates the high cost of employing numerous security guards for multiple sites. Some of the places under surveillance include parking lots, corridors, entryways, malls and airports.

V.T.

HOW MUCH IS SECURITY WORTH?

Implementing protection is a balancing act.

When road warriors in far-flung locations need to download sensitive business information from their corporate databases, how can they be sure that their communications are safe?

Making the connection from a Singapore hotel room, say, to a Dublin-based mainframe using a laptop and mobile phone may be relatively simple. But how secure is the connection?

How can traveling executives — much less those working from home or in the office itself — be sure that their data are safe from prying eyes and hacking fingers?

"Quite simply, you can't," says Stephen Minton, senior analyst for International Data Corp. (IDC), a worldwide information technology consultancy. "One hundred percent security doesn't exist."

He adds: "There are some very sophisticated security solutions out there, and these are improving all the time, but you have to be rational about the risks involved."

Spending more
According to recent research from IDC, the markets for network-security-related services (including network consulting, integration, and management and monitoring) will experience a compound annual growth rate of almost 25 percent over the next five years.

The market for network consulting alone will total approximately \$33 million in Europe this year, rising to around \$63 million by 2002. Correspondingly, network security implementation services will account for approximately \$48 million in spending this year and around \$97 million by 2002.

IDC points to growth in e-commerce and in corporate local-area networks (LANs) and wide-area networks (WANs) as drivers of growth in security spending.

Wider access
Growth in e-commerce and networks is closely intertwined, "two sides of the same cyber coin," says Geoffrey Doggart, e-commerce program manager for Datamonitor, a technology research firm. "If you want to unleash the power of information by making it available to employees, partners and customers, this is bound to cause security problems if the new system — call it an extranet or Internet-commerce platform — is not protected adequately."

BOB BESSETTE/WHITE PAPER BANK

Growth in networks has made security measures more important.

AGREEMENT ON ENCRYPTION EXPORTS

Whether they are being used in Mandalay or Manchester, enterprise security systems rely on encryption. The problem is that laws on encryption are different in different countries.

In December 1998, 33 members of the Wassenaar Arrangement, a multilateral export-control group including the United States, all European Union members and Canada, signed an agreement to institute controls on ex-

ports of mass-market encryption greater than 64 bits and eliminating controls on encryption up to 56 bits. Individual countries will decide on implementation at their own discretion.

The regulatory network is changing, but it still lags well behind the pace of technology and the market.

"Businesses large and small want a seamless market to be able to import or export cryptography based on their

needs, without fear of running afoul of some national law," says Christiaan van der Valk, deputy director of policy and business practices at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

He is also skeptical of the value of export controls. "Most businesses believe that restrictions on cryptography do not succeed in fighting crime, which is the ostensible reason for having them at all," says Mr. van der Valk. C.F.

Even if 99 percent security were attainable, it might not be acceptable to users. The problem with digital security techniques is balancing the tightness of security against convenience for the user, because there is a cost in user-friendliness and performance with every additional bit of security on computers. Users — even those who are very comfortable with technical requirements — dislike working on really well-secured systems, because they are not as easy to access. Mr. Doggart says.

Ease of use versus safety
Access to the system itself is the first hurdle. That calls for a user identification number, a password, often a smart card and sometimes the use of biometric techniques such as reading the retina or fingerprints. Access to certain files or applications may require surmounting additional barriers, comparable to levels of security clearance in government organizations.

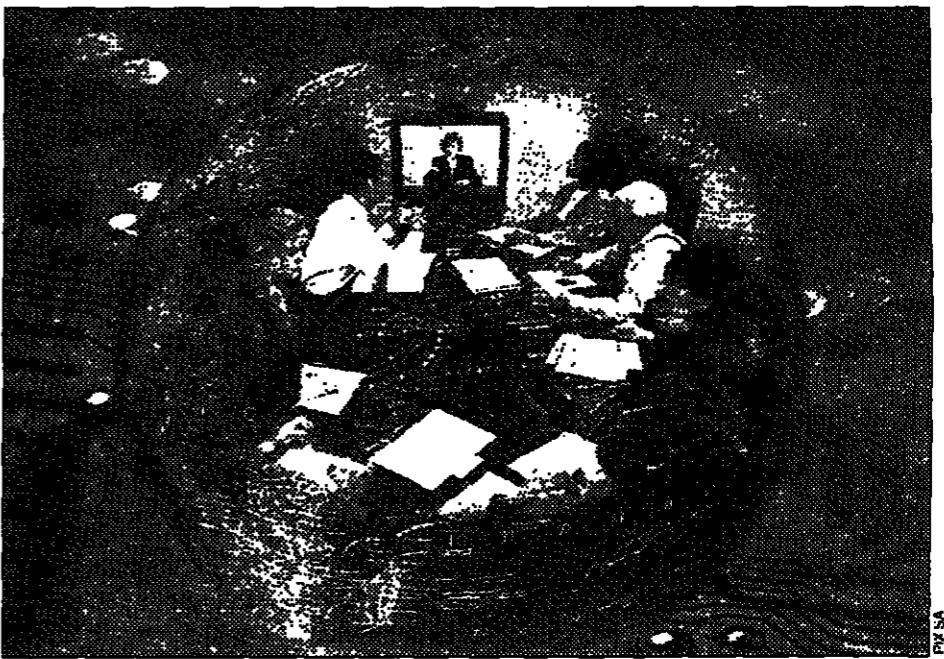
The Gartner Group, a technology research organization, points out a sometimes-overlooked cost of security measures — their impact on enterprise support services. In some environments, says Gartner, as much as 50 percent of all calls

to corporate help desks are related to requests for a password reset. The cost in terms of organizational efficiency depends on the complexity of the application, the frequency of password reset and employee use.

Sun Microsystems, with many road warriors among its employees, has developed a technology called Sun.net to deal with this kind of problem. "Sun.net is a three-tier system," explains Harald von Fellenberg, a Sun senior consultant based in Switzerland. "It encompasses a personal user ID, a personal identification number and a password on a credit-card-sized smart card that replies to a four- or five-digit challenge by the gateway."

Once logged on, a user will find a customized home page set up as a home office, including e-mail and data access. Business can be conducted securely, even if the computer being used is not one's own.

Mr. von Fellenberg contrasts his company's approach with that of the banking industry. "The difference is that it is in the interest of businesses to share information. This is not the case with banks, especially in Switzerland — for legal as well as cultural reasons."

*Applications such as document sharing, white boards and slide shows enhance the video experience.*

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WORLD ROUNDUP

U.S. Grand Injury Investigates Bout

BOXING A grand jury in New York is investigating whether the judges in the controversial Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis heavyweight boxing title fight received illegal payments, sources said.

The probe ordered by the Manhattan district attorney is the first to examine possible criminal conduct in the bout, which ended in uproar Saturday night when the combined scoring of the three judges ruled it a draw despite what most observers considered a clear victory by the British boxer Lennox Lewis. (AP)

Shot Putter Banned

ATHLETICS Vita Pavlysh, a Ukrainian shot putter, has been banned from competition for two years by her national federation after failing a drug test during the athletics indoor world championships earlier this month. Pavlysh won the title with a throw of 21.43 meters. (AP)

Swingley Wins Iditarod

DOGSLED RACING Despite breaking two sleds, Doug Swingley won the Iditarod Dogsled race for the second time Wednesday, completing the 1,100-mile (1,800-kilometer) Anchorage-to-Nome trek in nine and a half days. Swingley, a Montanan who also won in 1995, is the only non-Alaskan to have won the race. The victory earned him \$60,000 and a new pickup. He won an additional \$9,000 for leading at the halfway point. (AP)

New Zealand Stands Firm

CRICKET A gutsy stand of 145 between Gary Stead and Chris Harris on Thursday helped New Zealand to 211 for six wickets at the close of the first day of the third test against South Africa in Wellington. (Reuters)

See More Business Wins

HORSE RACING Forced out of last year's race by a rival that bolted across the course. See More Business had a clear run this time and scored an impressive victory in the £260,000 (\$424,000) Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Ridden by Mick Fitzgerald, the 16-to-1 shot beat Go Ballistic by one length, roared on by 50,000 fans at the home of English hurdle racing. (AP)

THE INTERMARKET

GENERAL

Personals

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Announcements

Herald Tribune

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SPORTS

Nets Edge Past Mavericks

88-87 Victory Is Sweet Homecoming for Marbury

The Associated Press

Stephon Marbury felt right at home in New Jersey.

In his first home game since being traded from Minnesota to the Nets, Marbury scored 29 points as New Jersey snapped an eight-game losing streak with an 88-87 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night.

"When you win a game like that, it gives you confidence," said Marbury, a New York native who bought tickets for 16 relatives and

NBA ROUNDUP

friends. "Tonight, we had a game plan offensively and defensively. Tonight was a perfect homecoming game for us."

The victory, only New Jersey's fourth in 22 games, wasn't assured until Michael Finley's 18-footer spun in and out at the buzzer.

The Nets interim coach, Don Casey, who took over after John Calipari was fired Monday, sprinted off the court with a big smile as his players celebrated.

Gary Trent's short jumper gave Dallas a 87-86 lead with 38 seconds left, but Kenny Kirkles made two free throws with 17 seconds remaining to put the Nets back in front.

Sixers 114, Pacers 110 Allen Iverson scored 39 points, including several sensational baskets down the stretch, as Philadelphia, playing at home, snapped a 10-game losing streak.

Iverson scored 10 of the Sixers' last 22 points despite picking up his fifth foul on Reggie Miller's three-point attempt with 5:25 left.

Miller scored 27 points for the visiting Pacers, who lost two straight for the first time this season.

Celtics 115, Clippers 84 Kenny Anderson scored 21 points in Boston as the Celtics broke a five-game losing streak with their most lopsided victory of the season. The Los Angeles Clippers have lost 20 of 21 games this season.

Raptors 103, Pistons 101 Vince Carter scored 6 of his 28 points in the final minute, including the winning basket with 14 seconds left as Toronto won in Detroit.

Christian Laettner, who missed the first 22 games of the season with a ruptured Achilles tendon, had three points in 19 minutes in his Pistons' debut.

Heat 86, Hawks 85 Tim Hardaway scored 24 points as Miami survived a three-point barrage by the Hawks to win in Atlanta.

Mookie Blaylock had a chance to win it for Atlanta, but missed a desperation jumper from the corner as time expired.

Hornets 115, Suns 111 Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell, acquired from the Lakers in a five-player deal last week, made successful debuts in their first home game as Charlotte beat Phoenix.

Jones scored a season-high 29 points. Campbell had a career-high 19 rebounds and 14 points.

Magic 103, Bulls 94 Darrrell Armstrong scored a season-high 23 points, and Nick Anderson added 21 as Orlando beat visiting Chicago.

Rockets 114, Nuggets 109 In Denver, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 16 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, and Othella Harrington added 23 points as Houston beat the Nuggets for the ninth straight time.

Spurs 82, Warriors 78 Tim Duncan had 17 points and 17 rebounds as San Antonio won in Oakland to stretch its winning streak to nine.



Christian Laettner of the Detroit Pistons taking a shot against Doug Christie of the Toronto Raptors.

Phoenix Bests Detroit in Last Second

The Associated Press

Keith Tkachuk scored with one second left to give the Phoenix Coyotes a victory, 5-4, in Detroit — their fourth victory in 16 games.

Teppo Numminen, a Coyotes defenseman, scored 3:48 into the third period to tie it, 3-3. Detroit had two chances from Vyacheslav Kozlov and Brendan Shanahan in the last minute, but Mikhail Shtalenkov, in his first start for Phoenix, stopped both.

The Coyotes got the final break Wednesday night when Jeremy Roenick intercepted an errant clearing pass, skated down the right side and centered a pass to Tkachuk, who tipped the puck past Detroit goalie Norm Maracle at 19:59.

Roenick said he was not sure how much time was left when he passed to Tkachuk, adding that he just knew he wanted him to take the final shot.

Tkachuk said: "That's the type of player Jeremy is. Every time we get in the zone he's looking for me."

Shtalenkov stopped 28 shots in his first game since the Coyotes got him

in a March trade with Edmonton.

Capitals 2, Stars 1 In Washington, Brian Bellows scored a power-play goal 35 seconds into overtime as the

NHL ROUNDUP

Capitals snapped a four-game winless streak with a victory over league-leading Dallas.

Penguins 2, Lightning 0 Rob Brown and Kip Miller had a goal each, and Jaromir Jagr added his league-leading 72nd assist as Pittsburgh won in Tampa. Jean Sebastien Aubin, the Penguins rookie goalie, gained the second shutout of his 11-game NHL career, facing just 16 shots as Pittsburgh extended its unbeaten streak to four games.

Bruins 4, Maple Leafs 1 Jason Alionis broke a tie with a breakaway with 6:31 remaining and Boston went on to win in Toronto.

Dmitri Khrustich, who assisted on the goal for his 500th NHL point, gave the Bruins a two-goal lead when he scored on a power play 1:42 later.

Video Replays Set To Return to NFL

The Associated Press

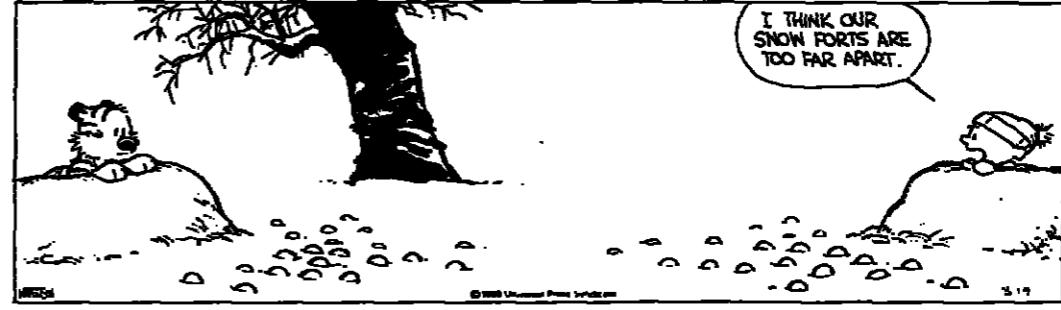
PHOENIX — The National Football League will again try using videotaped replays to review disputed calls by officials, using a system that will allow each team two such challenges per game.

Teams will not be allowed to use the video replay to appeal an official's call during the last two minutes of each half. At those times, a replay official will be able to overrule plays even without an appeal from a team.

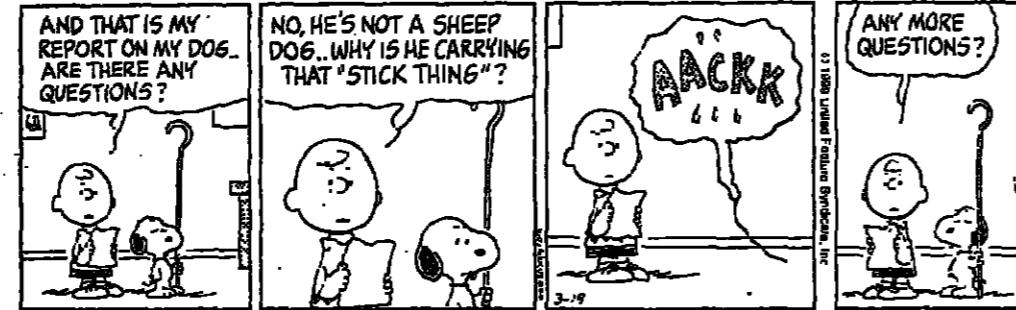
Team owners voted 28-3 for the plan Wednesday.

"We are implementing this system to correct the major, major, big mistake," said Mike Holmgren, coach of the Seattle Seahawks and co-chairman of the competition committee.

A replay system was in effect from 1986 until 1991 but was voted out in 1992, largely because it was delaying games. It had been voted down every year since then.

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THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

By Allen Rosenthal and Mike Jolley

Illustrations by Allen Rosenthal and Mike Jolley

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POSTCARD

Playtime at Harvard?

By Julie Flaherty
New York Times Service

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — For the first time anyone here can remember, Harvard College is wondering whether it should find a way to get students out of their rooms and away from their books to — gasp — relax and socialize.

A survey by The Harvard Crimson, the student newspaper, brought the question to the forefront last month when it asked undergraduates something that many of them seemed to be too busy to think about: their happiness.

It found, for example, that 64 percent of the students said they stayed in their rooms at least every other weekend to do homework, with about 45 percent saying they would like to stay in less often.

Almost half of the 211 men and 210 women surveyed said they had two hours of free time a day, or less. But even those minutes are not stress-free; about the same number said they often felt guilty about the way they spent that free time.

The telephone survey, conducted over a weekend using a list of undergraduates selected at random from the student directory, arose from a widespread feeling that there was something missing from campus life.

While many institutions of higher education, including Harvard, are playing a growing role in regulating students' behavior outside class — with restrictions on fraternities, alcohol consumption and late-night parties — the Crimson survey raises a question on the other side of that trend: Does a college have a responsibility to make sure its students go out and play?

Not surprisingly, the ad-

ministration is divided on the issue. Archie Epps III, dean of students, said he had tried for years to tell students that misery was not a required course. "I would like to see people slow down and smell the roses, if you would," he said, "and take a moment to enjoy the charm of a Harvard building, and also reflect on those things that could produce a philosophy of life."

He said Harvard owed its students fulfillment, and not just academically.

Harry Lewis, dean of Harvard College, agreed that times have changed; when he was an undergraduate in the 1960s, no one complained about such things. So Lewis said he was surprised that students would turn to the institution to provide a quote-unquote social life, and he added that the term itself had a code meaning: "Going to a party where there is alcohol — that is social life."

He told The Crimson that attending Harvard was "a rare and precious privilege" that should not be wasted. And he pointed out that Harvard had increased its financial aid budget last year, in part to give more free time to students who would otherwise have to get a paying job.

Beyond that, Lewis said, dragging students out of their rooms does not need to be a priority. Many undergraduates agree. Some are happy, some are miserable, and some are happy being miserable. About 13 percent said the success of their Harvard experience was not contingent on their being happy.

Jung Oh, a junior, told The Crimson: "The place expects me to work hard, and I do, and I like it. For me, academic intensity brings happiness."

PARIS — With a touch of sarcasm, Branford Marsalis, the star of stage, recordings and television, proudly describes himself as "a family man I even drive a family car." He used to call himself a "ham."

As often as possible, his four-door Saab stays in the garage at night while he helps his 13-year-old son, Reese, with his homework. Early in the morning, he cooks him a hot breakfast and takes him to school. "I'm the cooker in the house." He loves it. "I cook French food, Indian food, New Orleans food." He lives in suburban Westchester County just north of New York City, where he is busy trying to get his priorities straight.

He thought he was "typecast" in his role as a wisecracking kid in Spike Lee's movie "School Daze." "You really want to pay for me for this," he asked Lee. "I do this every day of my life anyway." He played Wesley Snipes' tenor saxophone on the soundtrack of Lee's "Mo' Better Blues" and Sean Connery's soprano in "The Russian House," and he taught the two of them how to fake it. Currently he is writing a score for a film directed by Laurence Fishburne.

He has played various degrees of himself as part of a black jazz band working for the white rock star Sting, and with his fine quartet — Kenny Kirkland, piano, Bob Hurst, bass, and Jeff (Tain) Watts, drums.

About the quartet, he said: "For one brief moment we were the best jazz band in the world. We were the best at what we did. Not many people can say that."

Though it just might be true, critics tend to frown when he talks like that. He tends to talk too much and he knows it. Branford, 38, the elder Marsalis brother, was once known for his wide and ready boyish smile. It is still there but hedged, as though his face muscles have trouble stretching. You wonder if the life of jazz has ground the life out of him.

He has a quick answer to that. To everything. "Life grinds the life out of you. You learn to hone in on the stuff that's really important. You ask yourself, 'Is this what I put on this earth to do?' Being on the road 300 days a year is not important. Neither is moving to L.A. to be on a big-time television show."

Marsalis was seen by more than 4 million Americans nightly for two and a half years as the leader of the "Tonight" show band. He once described it as playing Rochester to Jay Leno's Jack Benny. The reaction of his peers was kind of like when he had played with Sting — "back to the plantation."

He calls his new quartet album "Requiem" (Columbia), scheduled for April release, "incomplete. Fate intervened." Had the pianist Kenny Kirkland not died, they would have re-recorded most of it. Marsalis explains: "When we were communicating right it sounded like conversation. When it was wrong, it was just jazz. It sounds less like a conversation than like four guys showing off. It will always seem incomplete to me."

As creative consultant to Columbia Records, he is, the company says, "instrumental in shaping the creative direction of the label's jazz department." Marsalis leans back — his loose body language would be improved by an old-fashioned boyish smile — and begins to talk about the record business:

"People always ask how do you get jazz records to sell more. The answer is simple. You don't. Jazz is not about money, never will be. Jazz music lends artistic respectability to a label which their pop stars cannot. Everybody knows this. Except maybe the pop stars. Columbia's shareholders don't talk about Marvin Gaye. They hardly know from Bruce Springsteen. They'll talk about Billie Holiday or Miles Davis, or about my brother Wynton. "Ted Turner tried to start a hostile takeover of CBS back in the '80s, when Michael Jackson was the King of Pop. They wanted some



Marsalis: "Jazz music lends artistic respectability to a label."

of their artists to say to the shareholders that Columbia was a great place and they shouldn't accept the bid. Out of all the artists they could have chosen — Billy Joel, etc. — they sent Wynton to meet the shareholders."

"He was 23 years old. Looked great in a suit. Won a Grammy for jazz and one for classical. That stuff has weight. It's great for the label's image. Why try and make something else out of it? So you have to be reasonable if you don't want to drown in a sea of red ink. You have

relationship with his children, he didn't have a woman. He had the young guys in his band, whom he barely knew. Alf he had was the road."

The road is not much fun. Marsalis is talking faster. Last summer, a promoter in Warsaw set up a radio broadcast in violation of their contract. Marsalis refused to play. The band just sat there in the dressing room. It got to be 11:30, an hour late. They were going to have to ride a bus all night to the next gig. The audience was whistling and boozing this prima donna musician.

Marsalis realized that even if the promoter said, "O.K., we won't broadcast," he would still have to find somebody to "run around and make sure the snake isn't plugged." There was really no choice. He decided to go on anyway. He would probably even enjoy listening to the bootleg album of the broadcast that was bound to come out sooner or later.

Later on the same tour, a German promoter could not raise the up-front payment the contract called for. So Marsalis sat there again, reflecting on somber reality. Here he was supposedly at the top of the jazz heap, and he was still dealing with bottom-feeding businessmen.

"Don't worry," the man said. "I'll pay you right after the concert." Sure. One of his musicians laughed out loud: "Now you know why Miles played rock." Right.

"Do the Spice Girls have to sit in the dressing room and say where's the money? Does Pavarotti? It's all about respect. There's always a certain level of disrespect for jazz music. Do critics write reviews to disseminate meaningful information or is it just to prove that they're more masculine than the musicians? A critic said that a record of mine was 'nothing new.' I had never claimed it was new. I've always been very assertive about being creative by going through the tradition, not at the expense of the tradition. Anyway, it's impossible to play anything new. We all play the same 12 notes."

PEOPLE



PHOTO CALL — A sea of placards reserving seats for the actors and entertainers who will make presentations at the 71st Academy Awards ceremony Sunday at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

THE ACTOR Richard Dreyfuss cannot applaud the man he calls "the bogeyman of my youth." Elia Kazan, the director who won Oscars for "Gentleman's Agreement" in 1947 and "On the Waterfront" in 1954, will be given a lifetime achievement award during Academy Awards ceremonies on Sunday. The tribute does not sit well with some in Hollywood, including Dreyfuss. Kazan joined the Communist Party in the 1930s, but resigned soon after World War II. Called before the House Committee on Un-American Activities during the 1950s, Kazan admitted his past and named Communist sympathizers in Hollywood. "He was first an icon, and then a bogeyman of my youth," Dreyfuss wrote in an opinion piece for the Los Angeles Times, "falling like the central character in some Greek myth from hero to villain in the twinkling of an eye." He added: "His work has not been neglected, and he has not gone without honor. Let that suffice."

The hip-hop star Lauryn Hill made her return to Doug Tracht, a radio shock

jock in Virginia known as the "Grease-man," during a concert Tuesday at Constitution Hall. Tracht lost his job at WARW-FM for playing a Hill song, then making a racist comment about dragging black people behind trucks. Before singing the same song, "Doo Wop (That Thing)," to a sold-out

house, Hill thanked Washington for not letting a "certain deejay" get away with his remark. Then she chanted, "Respect, respect, respect, respect." The crowd erupted in cheers.

□ Jimmy Carter and his wife, Ros-

New Uproar for Embattled Royal Family

Agency France-Press

LONDON — This city's tabloid newspapers are in a tizzy over a report that Britain's Queen Mother has run up a huge overdraft because of her lavish lifestyle.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 98, has long been seen by much of the press as a national treasure, but a report in the Sunday Times has threatened that title. The newspaper said she had run up a debt of £4 million (\$6.4 million) at the royal bank Coutts, despite an annual income from the Civil List — public money given to the senior royals — of £643,000 a year.

A columnist at the normally royal-friendly Sun tabloid slammed the Queen Mother for "spending money like it's going out of fashion." And a column in the equally pro-royal Daily Mail was even more critical, comparing the Queen Mother's lifestyle with those of old-age pensioners who had to sell their possessions to make ends meet. The Independent, meanwhile, ran a piece Thursday headlined, "Tabloids turn tables on Queen Mother."

allynn, have been honored for their efforts to help children. The former president and first lady were presented Unicef's 1999 International Child Survival Award during a dinner in Atlanta to benefit the United Nations Children's Fund. Since leaving office in 1981, Carter and his wife have continued their involvement in international humanitarian affairs. In 1982, they formed The Carter Center, a nonprofit organization created to promote peace and fight disease in neighborhoods and nations around the world.

Speaking at a children's television conference in Los Angeles, the comedian Bill Cosby lashed out at shows that degrade minorities. "And I'm saying this is done on purpose," he said. "This stereotyping, it hurts because someone sitting behind a desk said, 'This is what I want black people to look like.' About 500 people attended." Through the Eyes of Children," which was sponsored by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.



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